MARVEL COMICS

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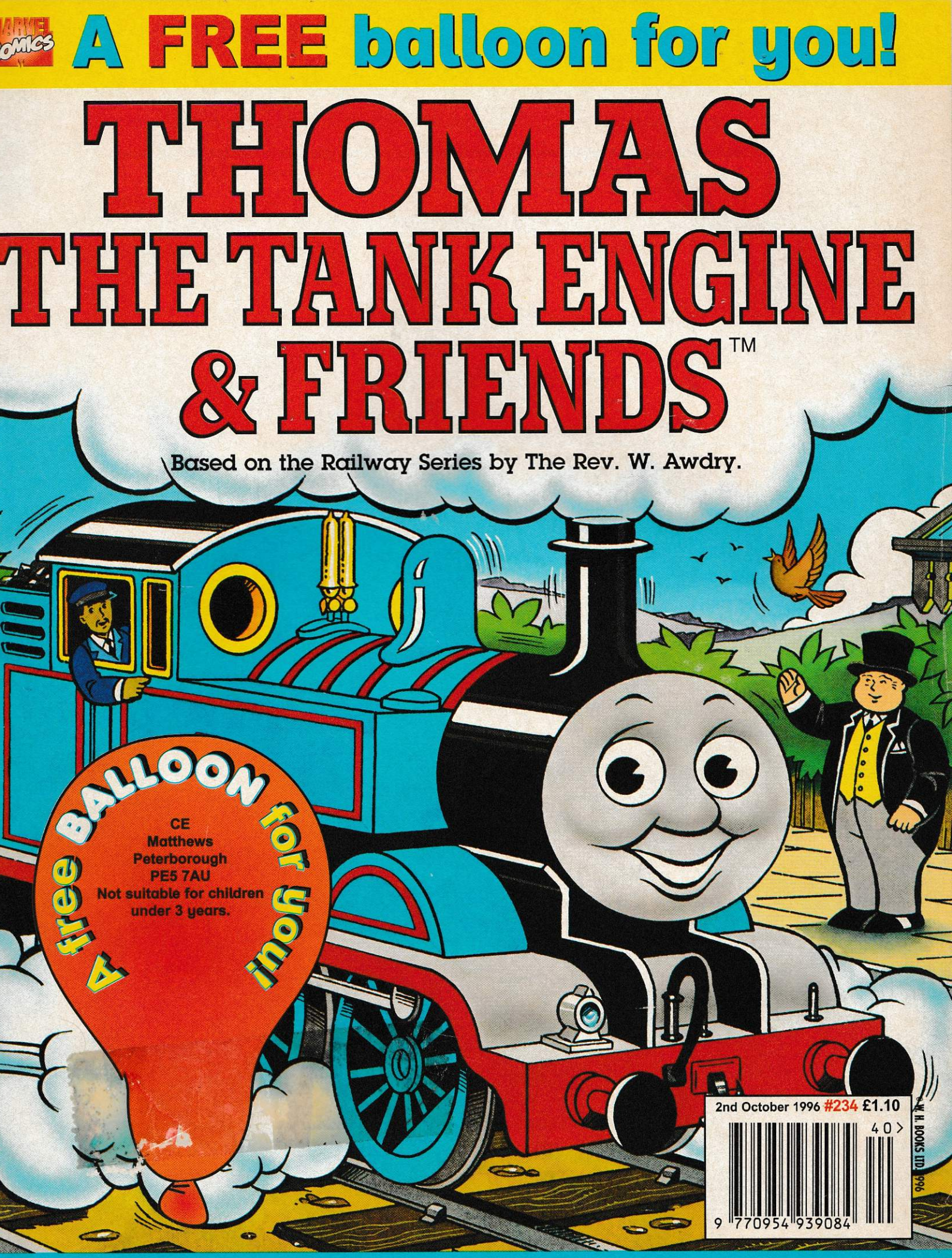
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



2nd October 1996 #234 £1.10
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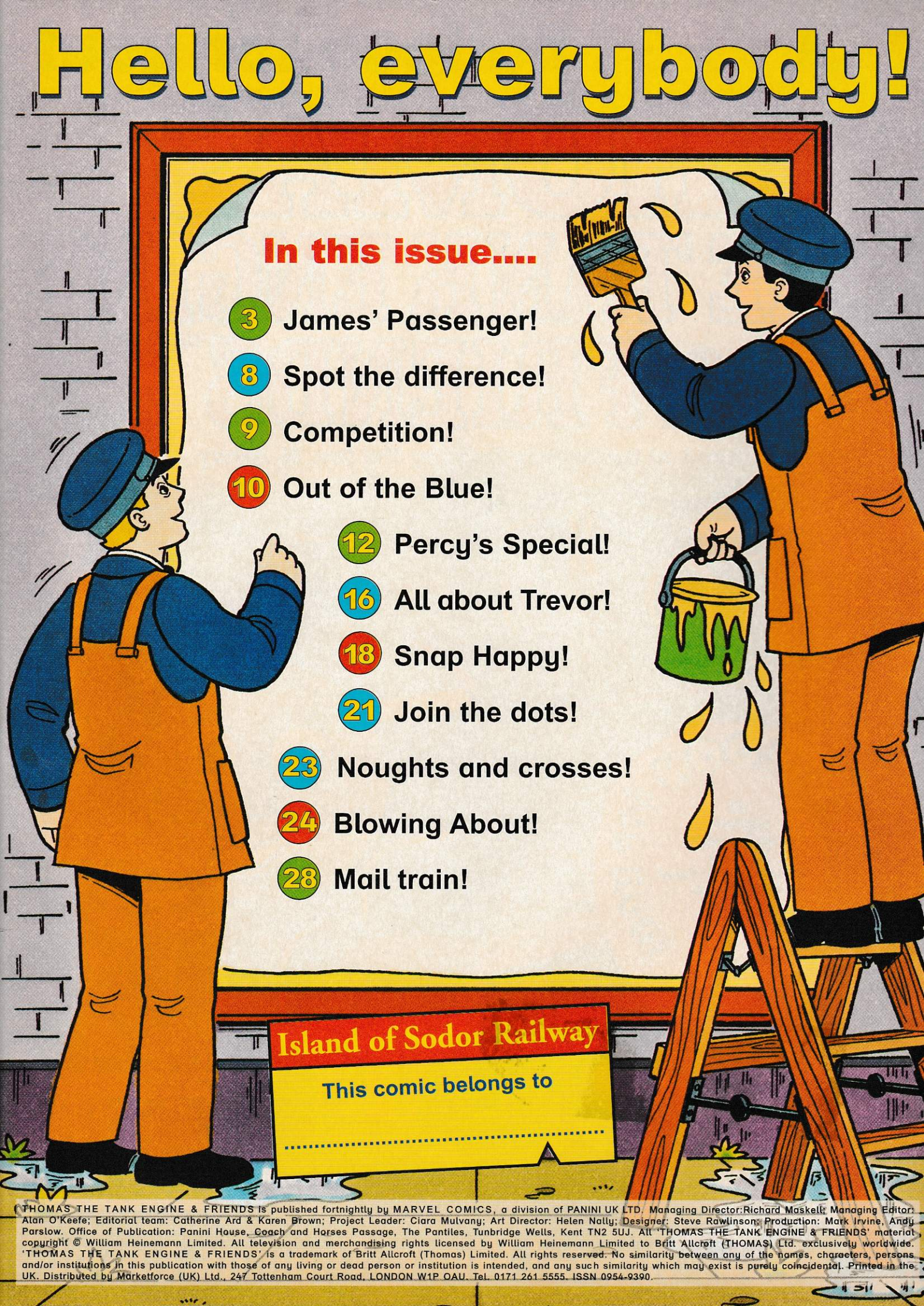
All about Trevor! Win a Thomas towel!

Hello, everybody!



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Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to

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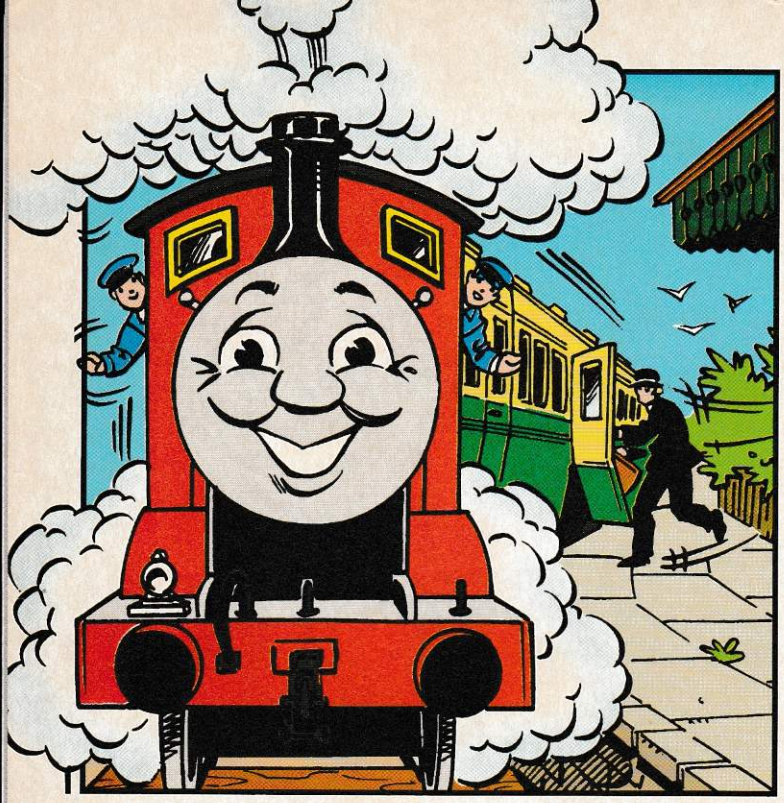
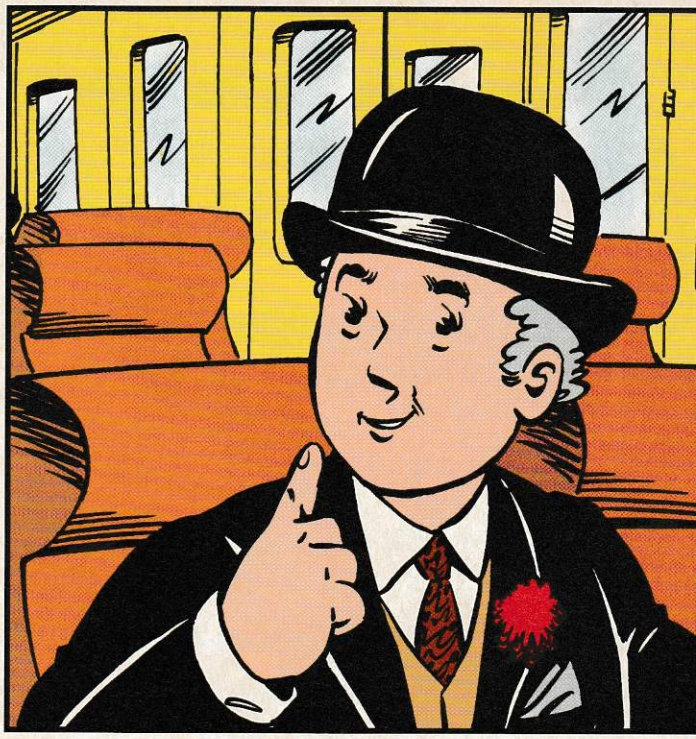
James' Passenger!

1. James had collected some empty carriages from a station siding, to take them to the Main Station. He waited at the main line platform while the points were changed.

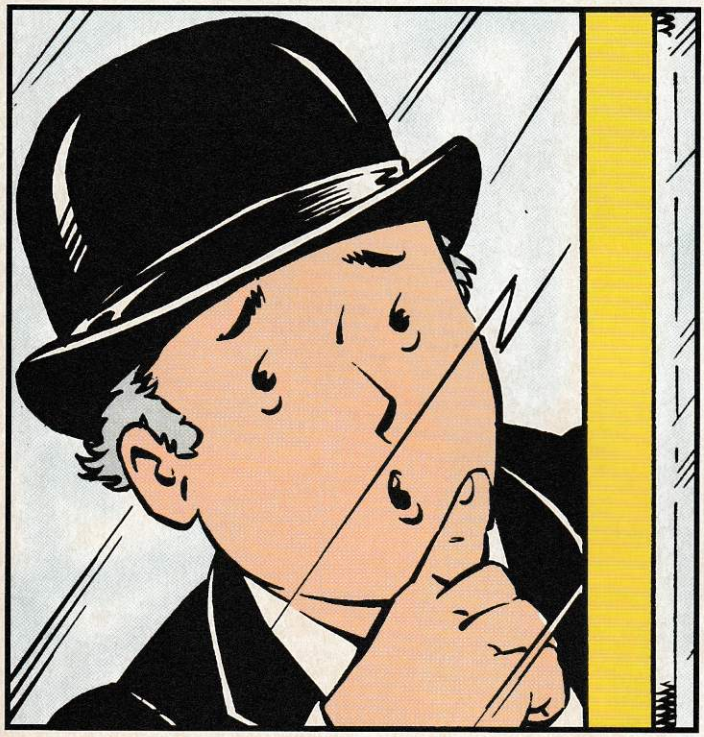
2. "Hurry up!" he called. "Gordon will be arriving on this line any minute with the Express." Then a man ran along the platform. He heard the guard blowing his whistle.



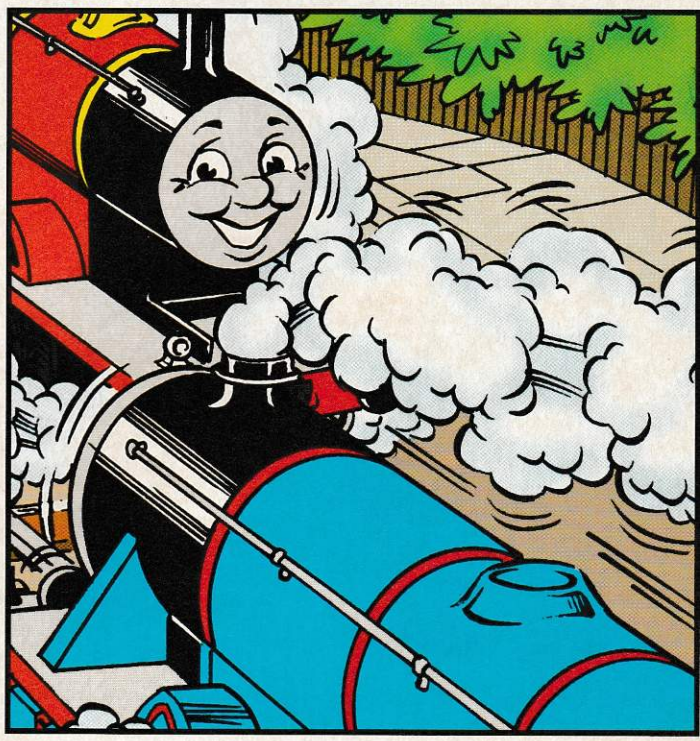
3. "That sounds like the Express leaving!" said the man. "I must catch it!" He ran towards the train and boarded one of the carriages a moment before James pulled away.



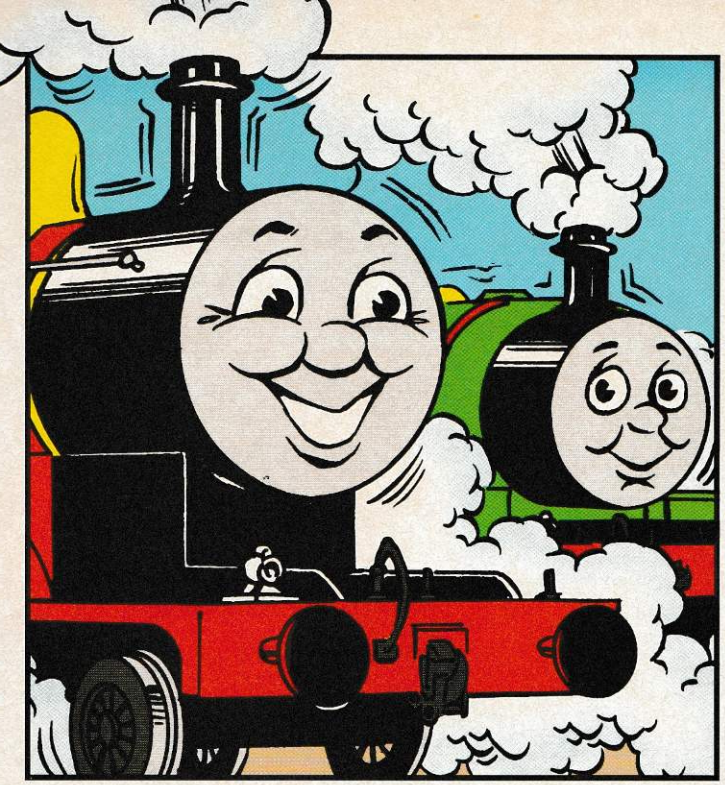
4. "Phew! Made it!" the man puffed, sitting down. He was surprised to see that there were no passengers. "That's strange," he frowned. "The Express is usually very crowded."



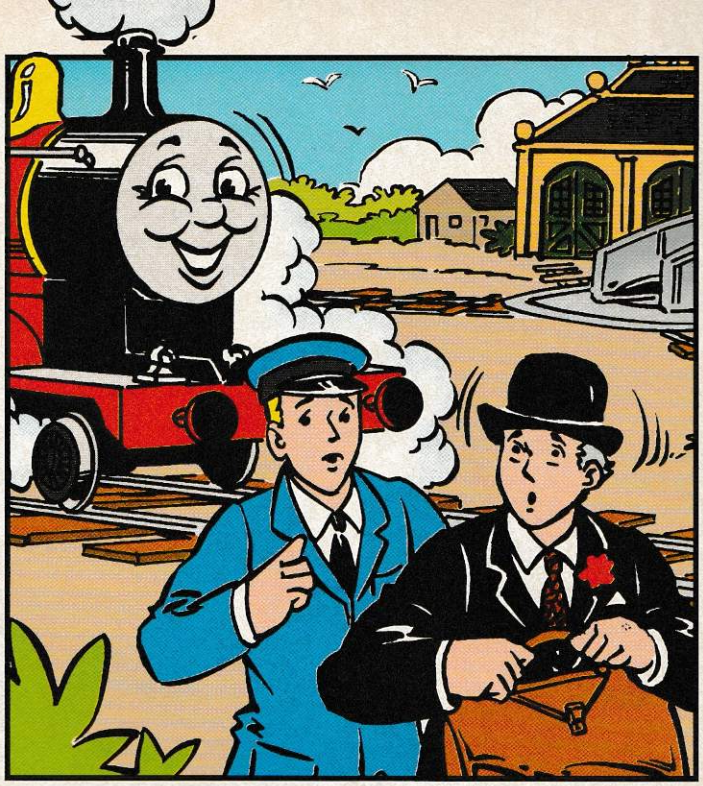
5. The man was even more puzzled to see James cross the points and turn round. "This train is going the wrong way!" he gasped. The points were then changed for Gordon.



6. Gordon rolled into the station with the busy Express. "Oh, no! I'm on the wrong train!" thought the man. But he could not get off. James was steaming towards the station yard.

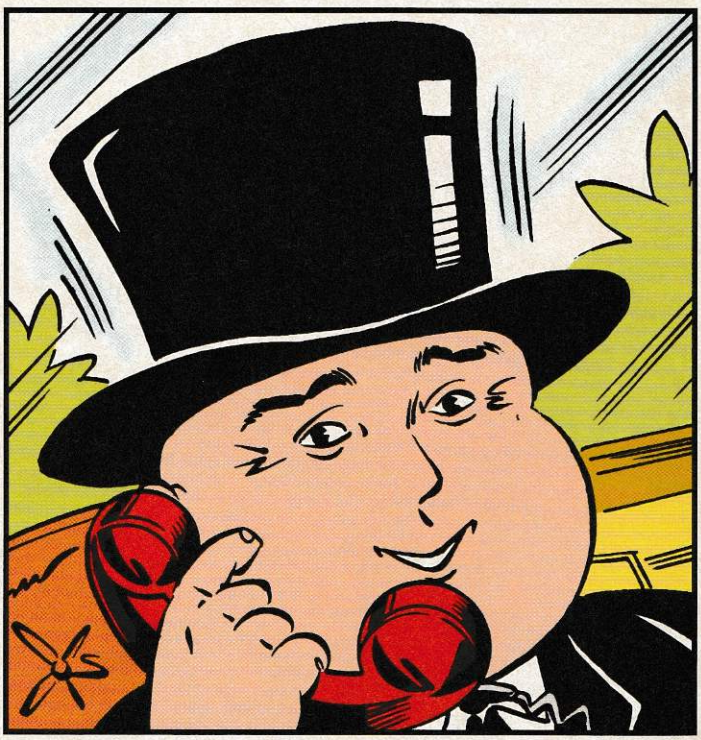


7. When he arrived, James chuffed slowly into the yard. The man waved urgently to James' guard. "I'm afraid I got on the train after the whistle had been blown," he said.



8. The guard helped the man down from the carriage. He led him across the yard, past engines, the big shed and the turntable. He was taken to the Fat Controller's office.

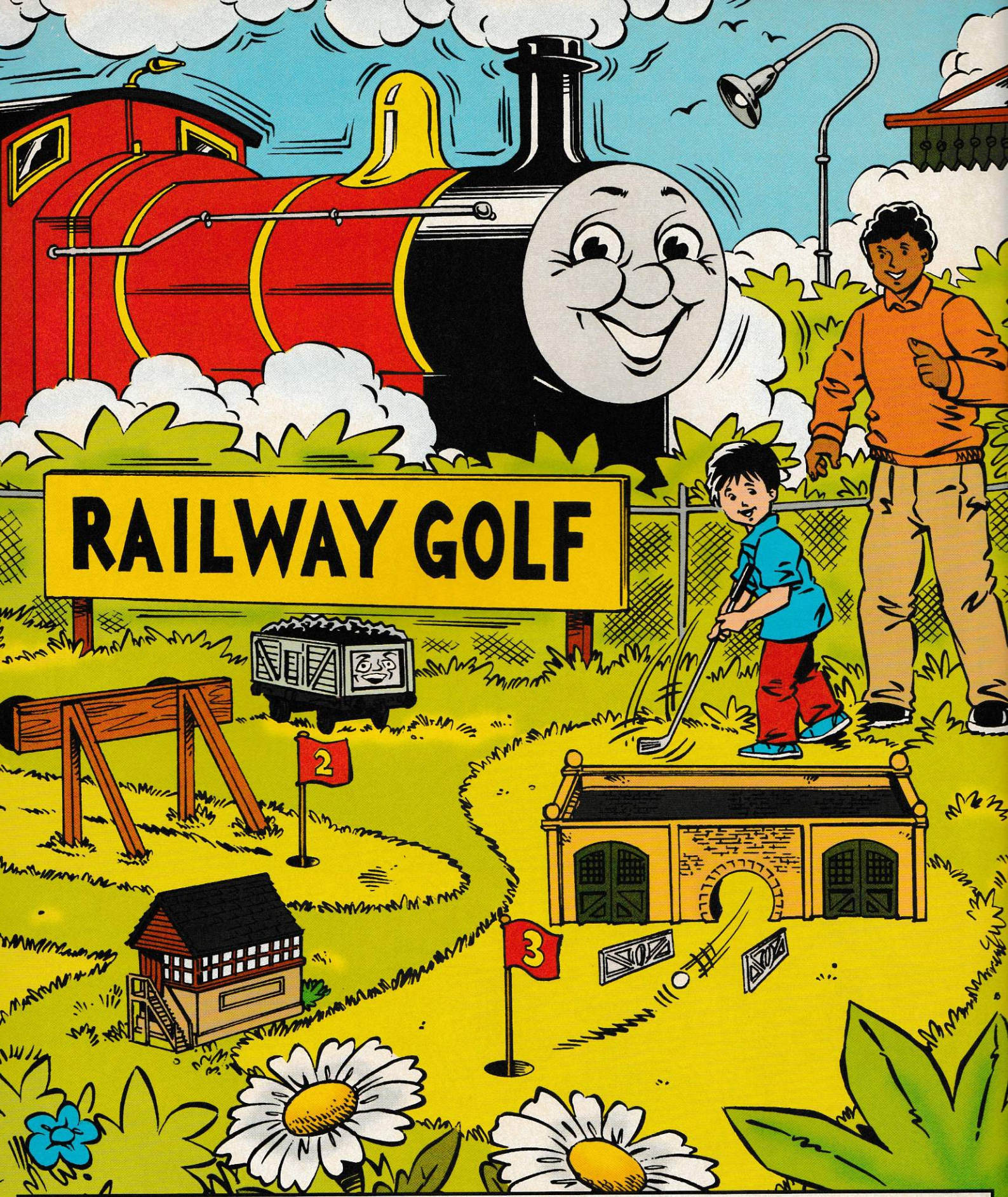
9. "I've an important meeting with the mayor," said the man. "Don't worry! James will take you," the Fat Controller replied. "Those carriages were to be put into service anyway."



10. The man got on board James for the second time. While James set off again with his special passenger, the Fat Controller rang the mayor to say that the man was on his way.

11. Hissing steam, he finally pulled up at the station. The man thanked James' driver and went to meet the mayor. It wasn't long before James had forgotten all about him.

12. But one day, as he took a goods train past a park near the town hall, James spotted children using a new, miniature golf course. It looked just like a little railway!



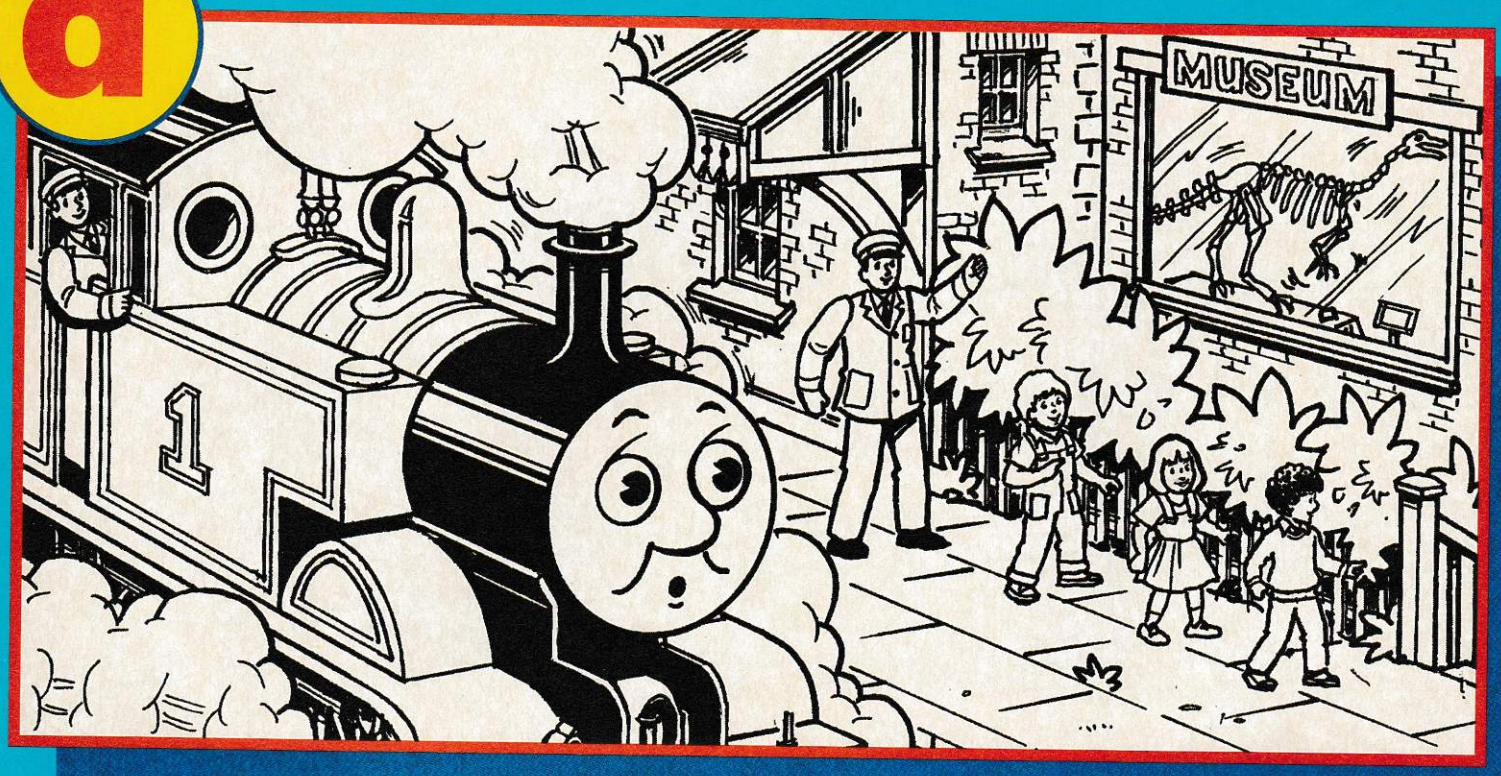
13. The children tapped golfballs over bridges and turntables, then through a long tunnel, a station yard and even a shed! "I wonder who built all that?" he thought to himself.

14. James soon learned that it was his special passenger. "He got the idea from you," said the Fat Controller. "So it's lucky he missed the Express, after all!"

Spot the difference!

These two pictures look the same, but there are some tiny differences between them! Can you spot the 5 changes?
When you have found them all, colour in the pictures!

a



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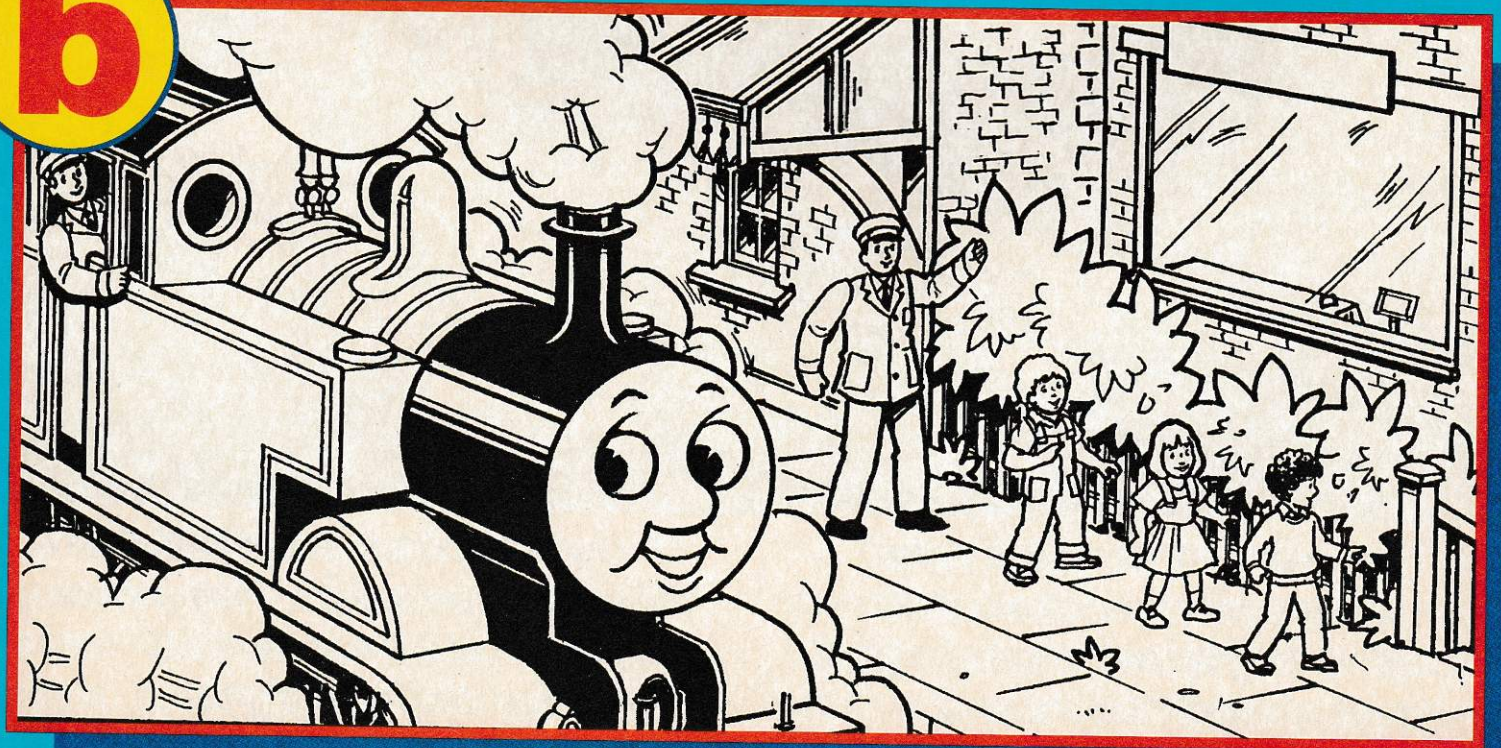

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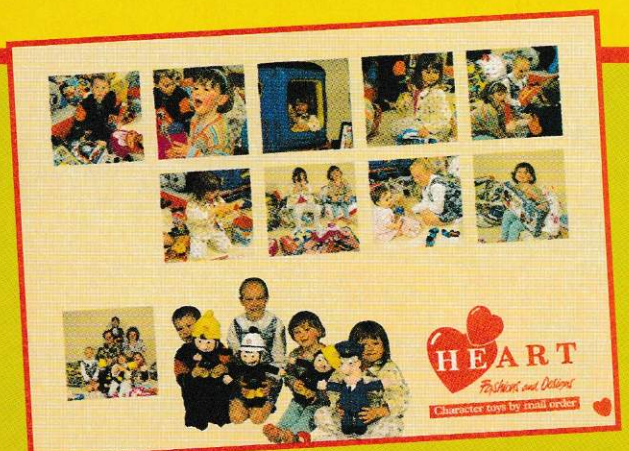


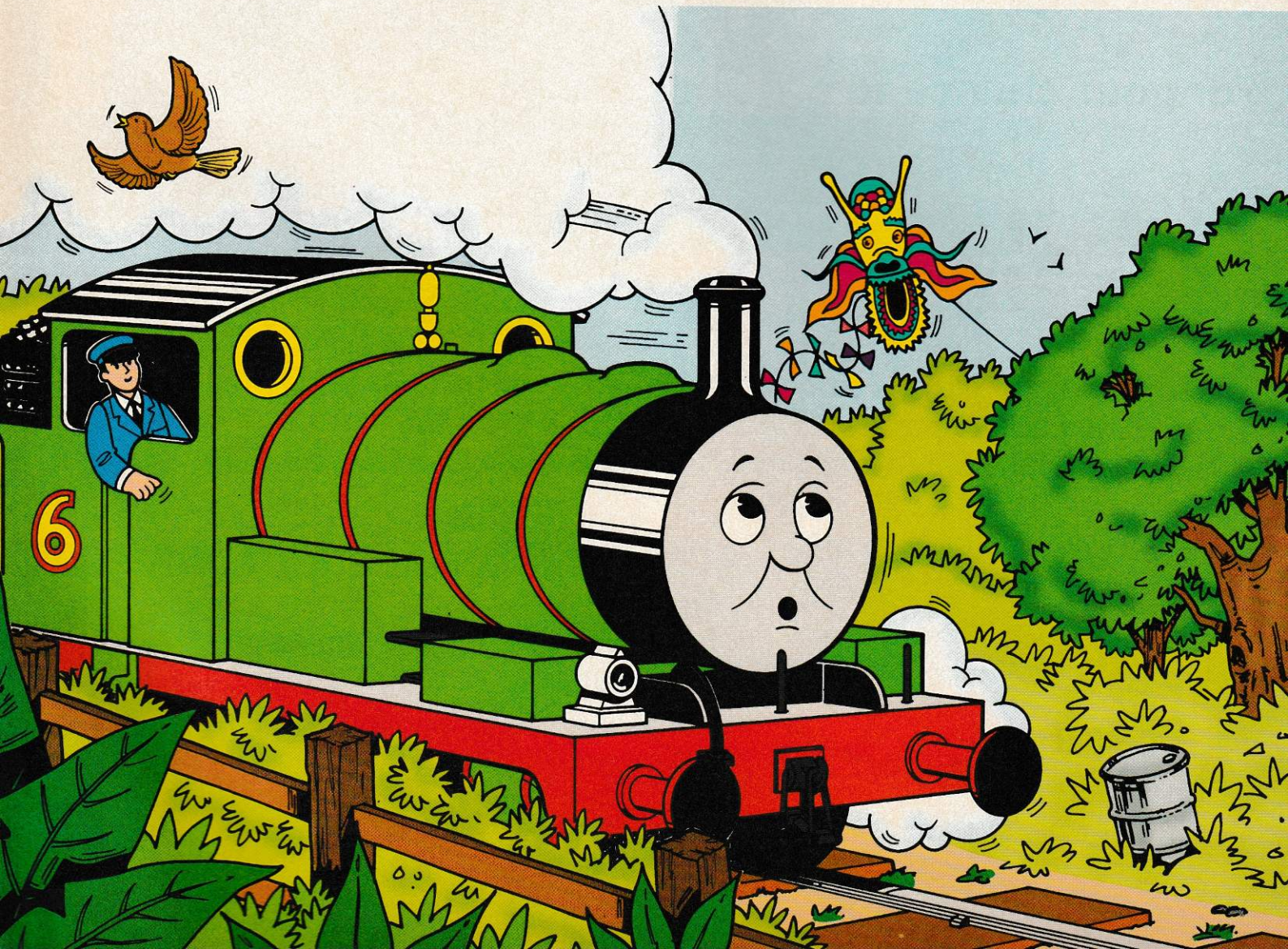
Heart Fashions and Designs stock over 150 Thomas products in their mail order catalogue. For your FREE copy, telephone 01543 377182, quoting reference 234, or write to them at the competition address above.

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.

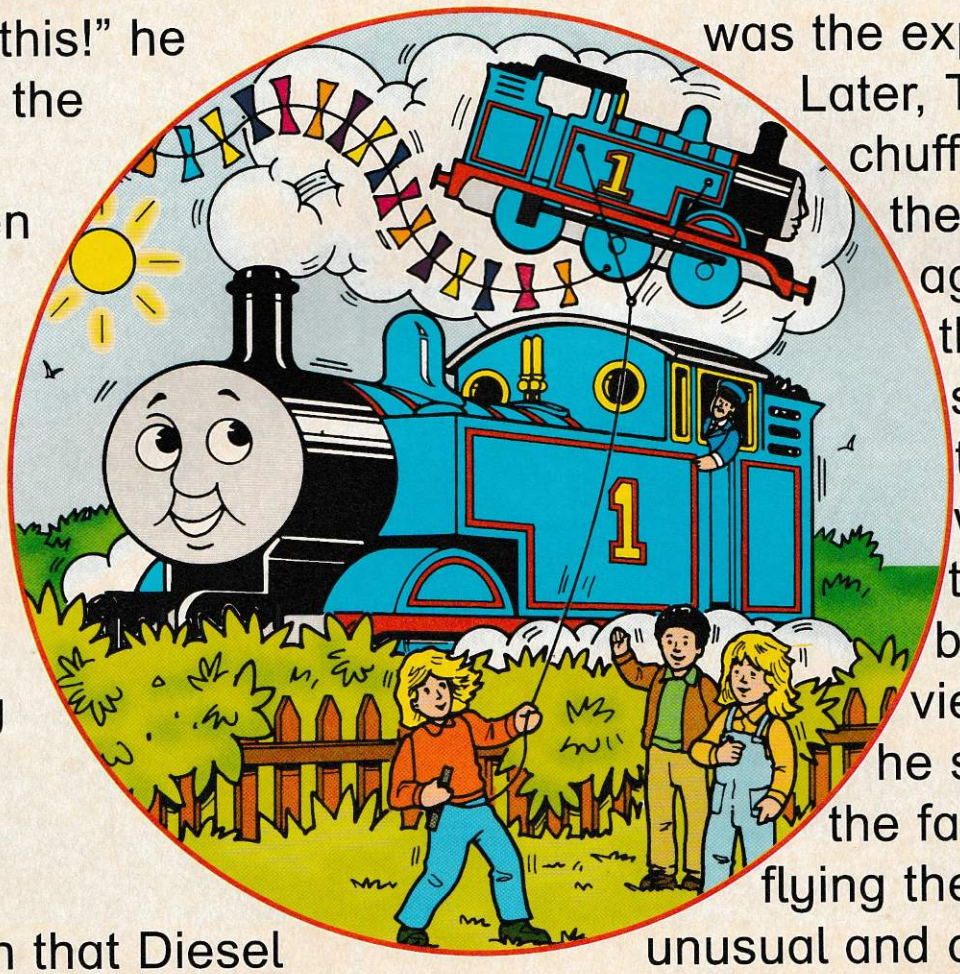
Out Of The Blue!

One fresh morning Thomas was puffing along his track by the park. He was enjoying the breeze on his face, when, suddenly, to his surprise, he saw a huge red bird soaring overhead. "Bless my buffers!" he said. "It's big enough to be a parrot all the way from Africa!" He was so surprised he told the other engines about it as soon as he returned to the Main Station. "Don't be silly, Thomas," chortled Percy. "There aren't any parrots around here!" Poor Thomas blushed. "Oh dear," he sighed. "I must have imagined the whole thing!"

Percy puffed off still smiling at Thomas' story. He was just

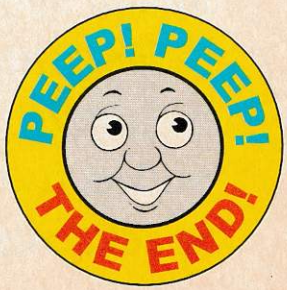


nearing the park when he looked up and saw something that nearly made his eyes pop out! Above the tall green poplar trees that lined the track, he saw an incredible sight. A baby dragon was flying overhead, brightly coloured, and smiling in the sun! "Just wait until I tell the others about this!" he gasped. How the other trains laughed, when they heard about Thomas' parrot and Percy's dragon! "You two have been working too hard," smirked the trucks.



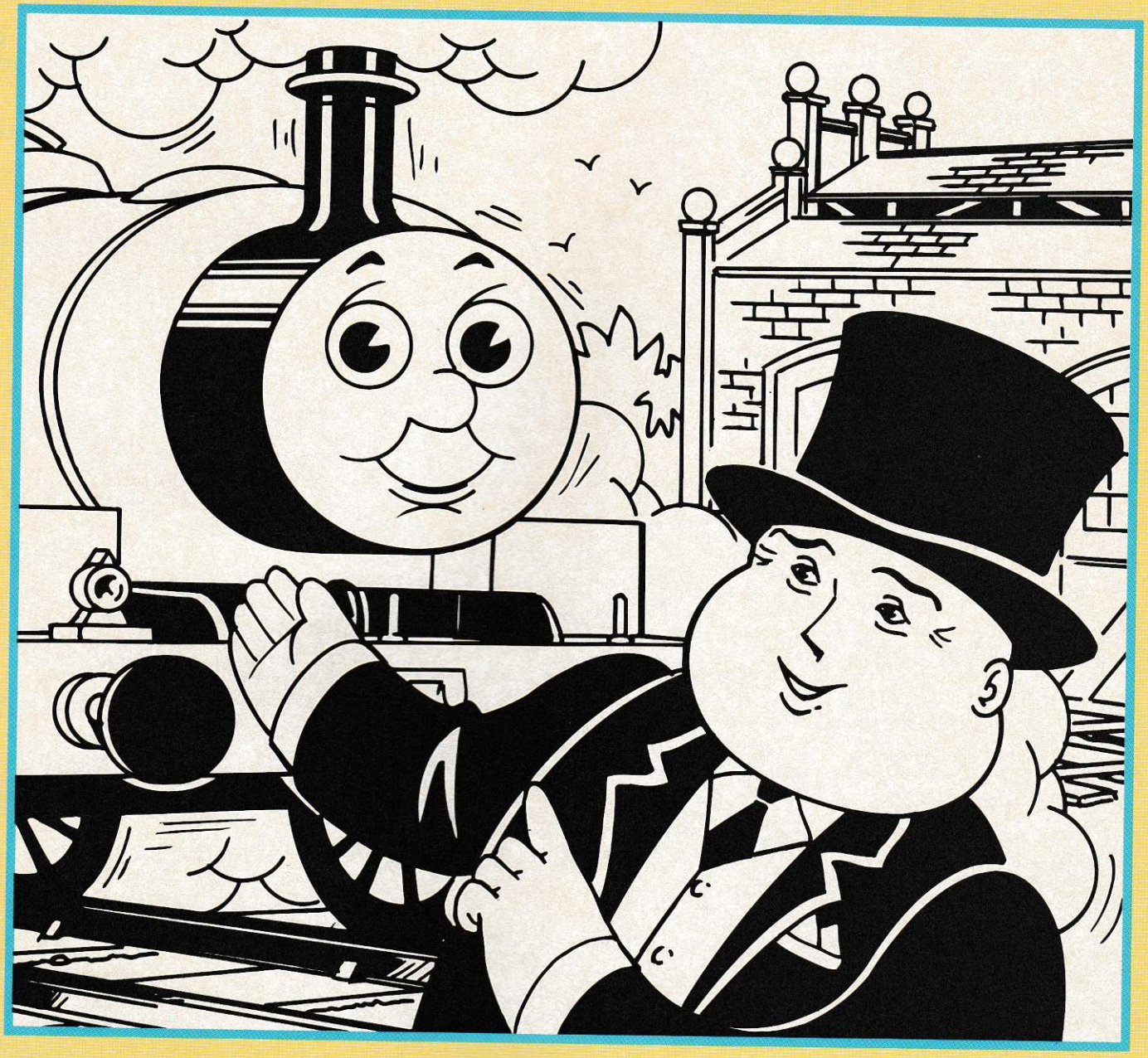
It was then that Diesel turned up. "Hee hee," chuckled the naughty trucks. "Diesel will think this is very funny!" But Diesel astonished them all even more. "I've just seen a man flying around above the park!" he blurted out. Nobody laughed this time. It was all too much for the engines, they had to tell the Fat Controller.

Now it was the Fat Controller's turn to laugh. "You'll see even stranger things than that in the sky!" he said. Then he showed them a poster. "KITE FLYING DISPLAY IN THE PARK TODAY!" it declared. So that was the explanation! Later, Thomas chuffed past the park again on the other side. This time there were no trees to block the view, and he saw all the families out flying their unusual and colourful kites. The little engine was glad that he didn't feel silly anymore. And before he went out of sight, Thomas gave a special peep! He had just seen one kite that looked just like a tank engine!

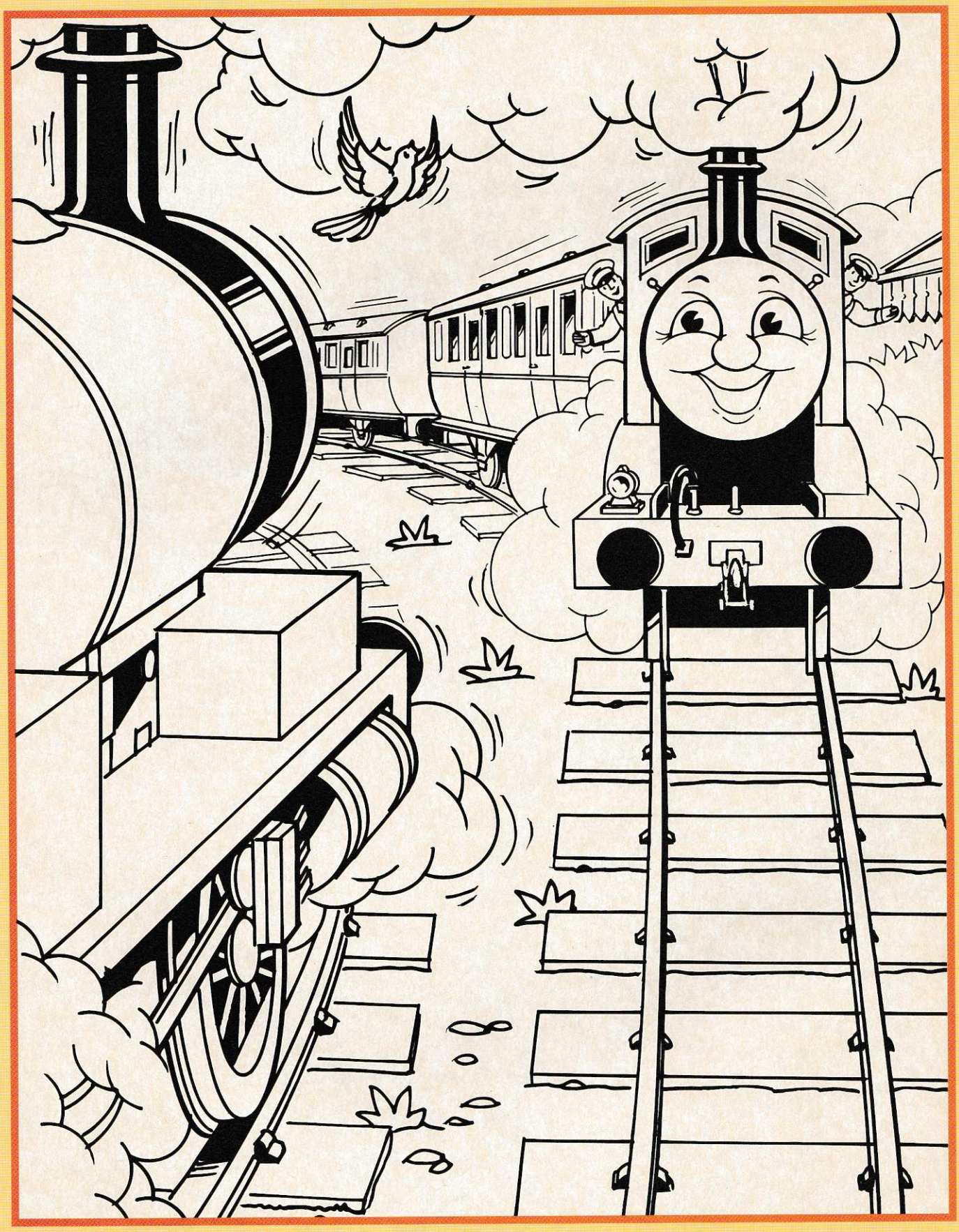


A read & colour story

Percy's Special!

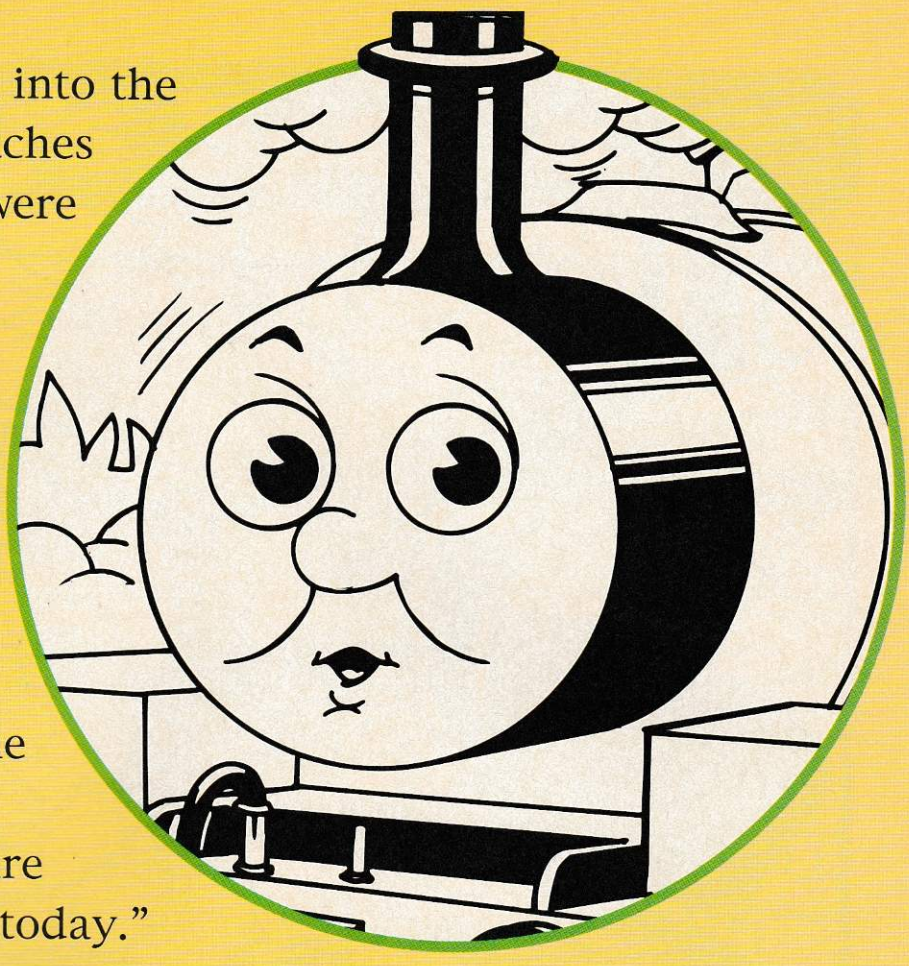


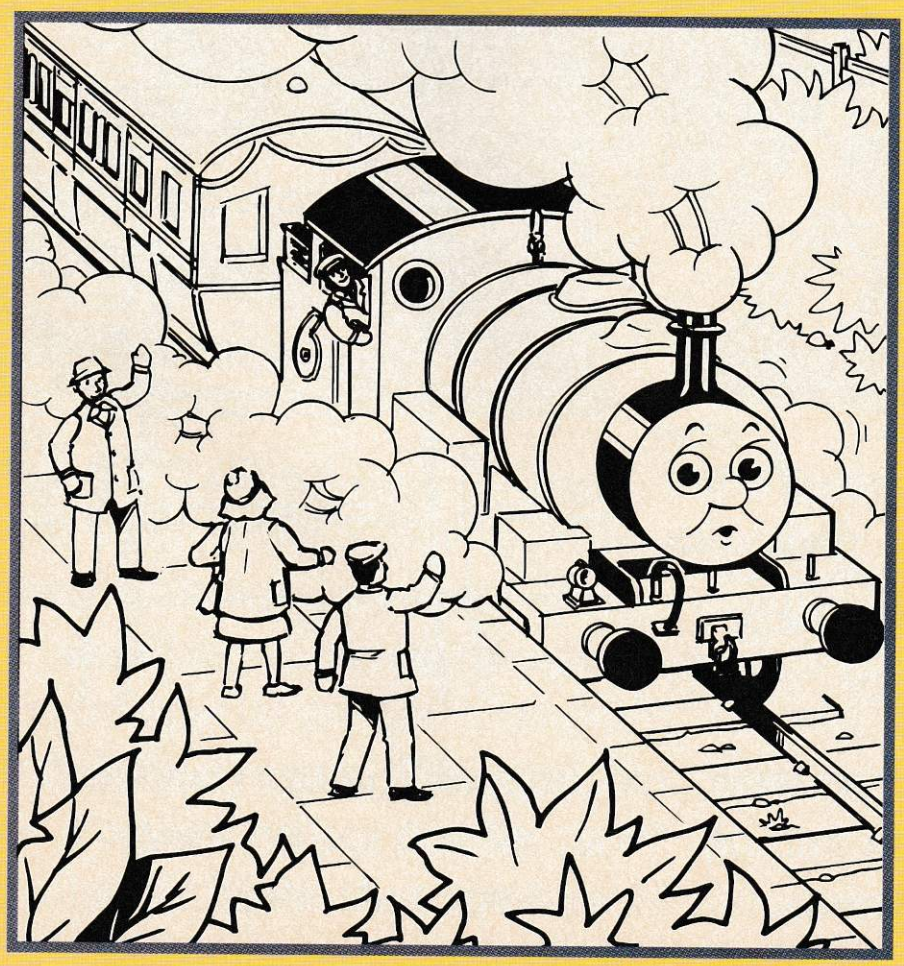
1 On 'Railway Day' during the week of the Sodor Festival, the Fat Controller visited Percy in the yard. "I have planned lots of special excursion trains today," he began. "There will be a Mystery Tour Special pulled by Thomas, a Seaside Special which James is pulling and Henry is taking a Sodor Explorer Special. With so many engines busy, I need another to pull the local stopping train. Will you do it?" Percy was honoured. "Oh, yes please, Sir!" he whistled. Feeling proud, Percy trundled along the line into the Main Station.



2 James was just leaving with the Seaside Special. "I'm pulling my own train today!" Percy called out. "What, that ordinary old stopper?" James chuckled. "Wait till you see it!" Percy looked puzzled. "What does James mean?" he wondered.

3 When Percy pulled into the station and saw the coaches he was shocked. They were all different colours! There was an ugly blue one, an old red and yellow one, an even older orange one and a scruffy green one! "I'll look silly pulling that lot," grumbled Percy. "They were probably the only ones left," said his driver. "All the others are being used for Specials today."





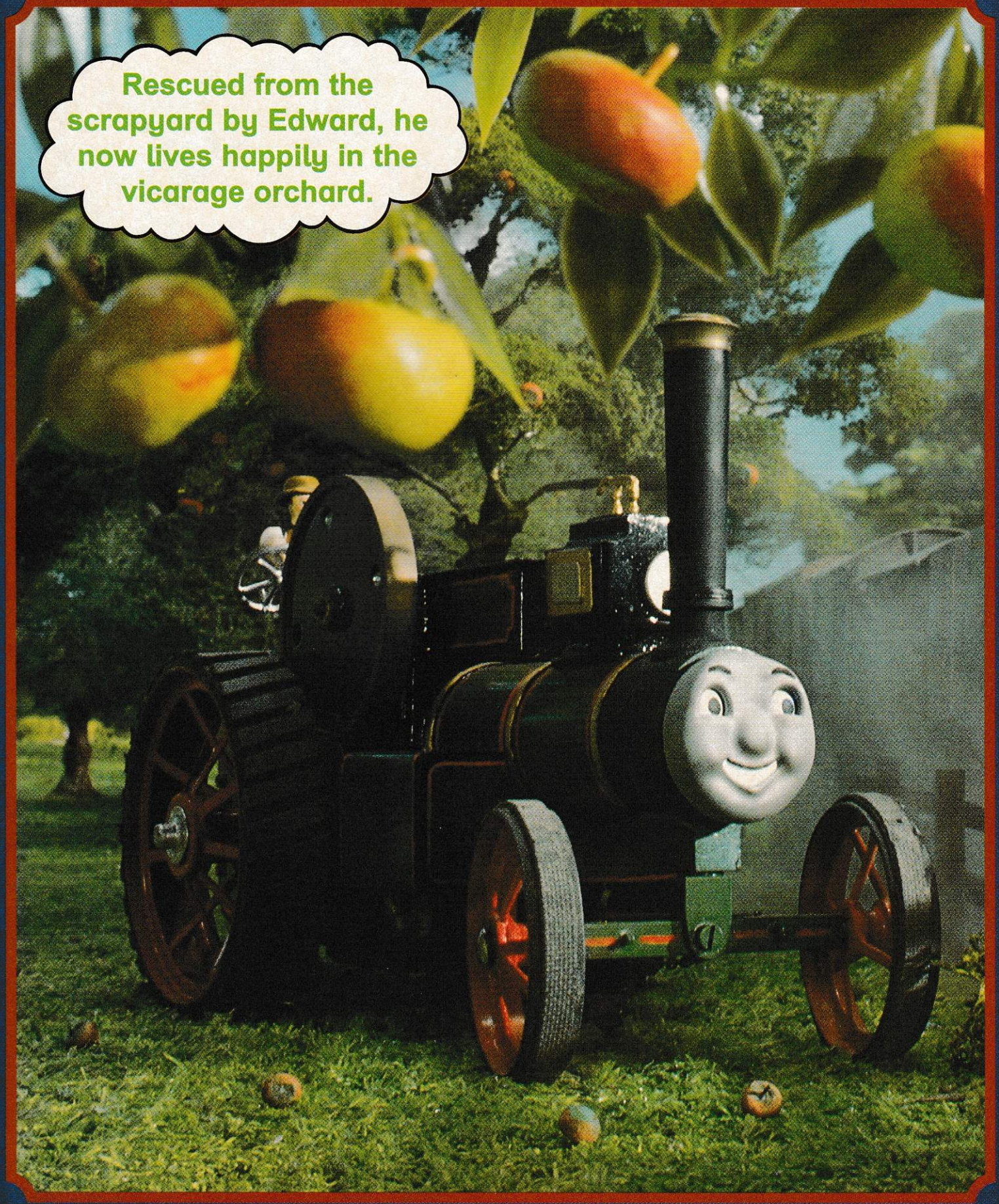
4 Soon Percy was coupled to the coaches and they all set off on their journey. Percy sighed as the coaches began to sing. "They'll be out of tune," he groaned. "People will point and laugh even more!" But to Percy's surprise they sang beautifully together: "We're going away! We're going away!"

5 When Percy puffed into his first station, the passengers didn't mind that the train looked odd at all. "It makes a change to have such a colourful train," Percy heard one say. And another said, "I've never known a train to have more colours than a rainbow. Perhaps we should call it the Rainbow Special!"

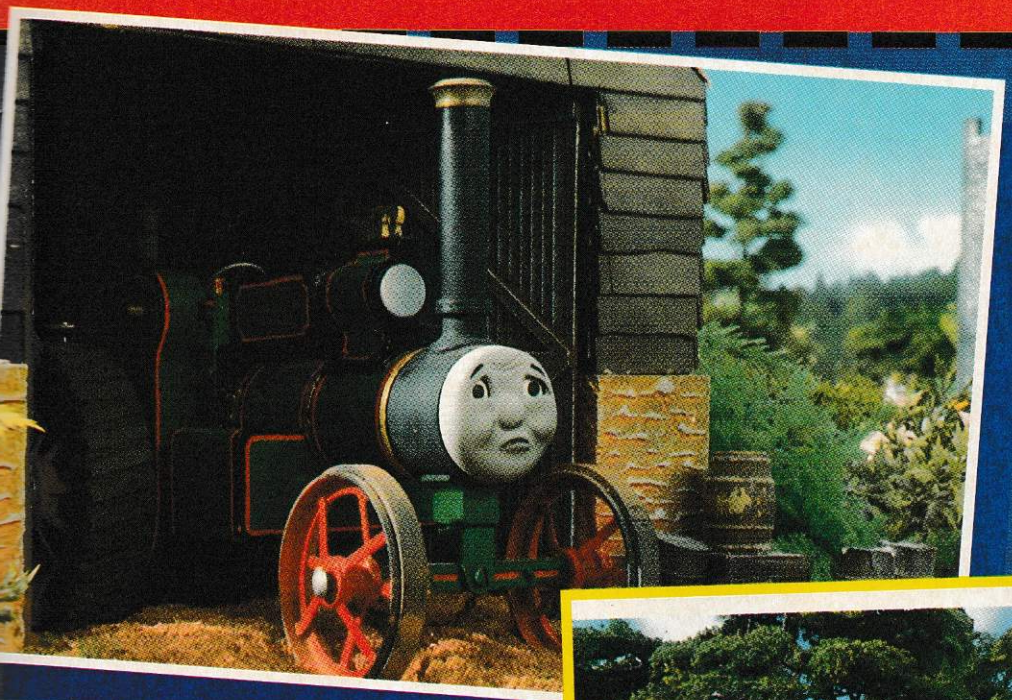
That made Percy smile and soon, all the passengers on board were calling the train the Rainbow Special. The delighted coaches sang even more loudly and more beautifully as Percy pulled them from station to station. Percy was really happy again. He had his own 'Special' - the Rainbow Special - after all!

The end

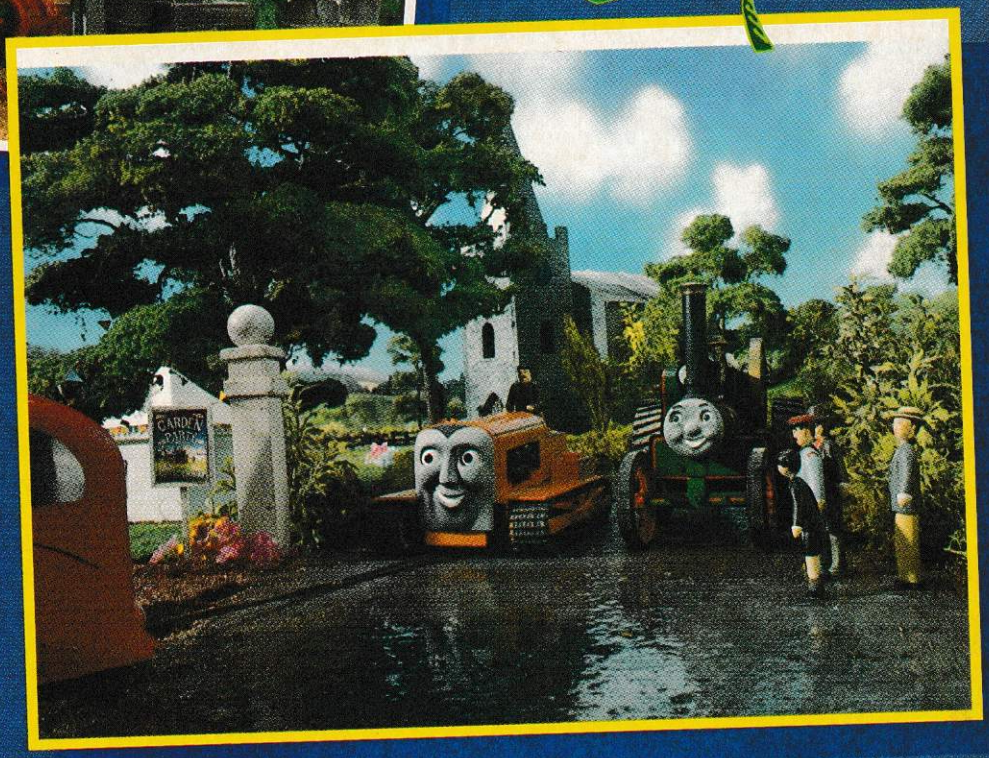
All abou


Rescued from the scrapyard by Edward, he now lives happily in the vicarage orchard.

t Trevor!



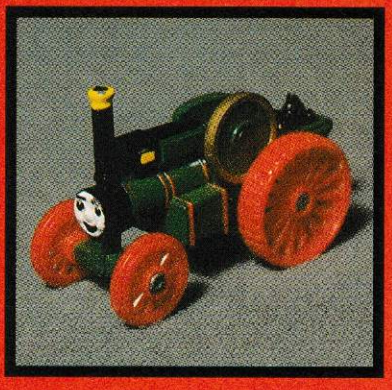
Trevor hates to be left out, as he likes to be helpful.



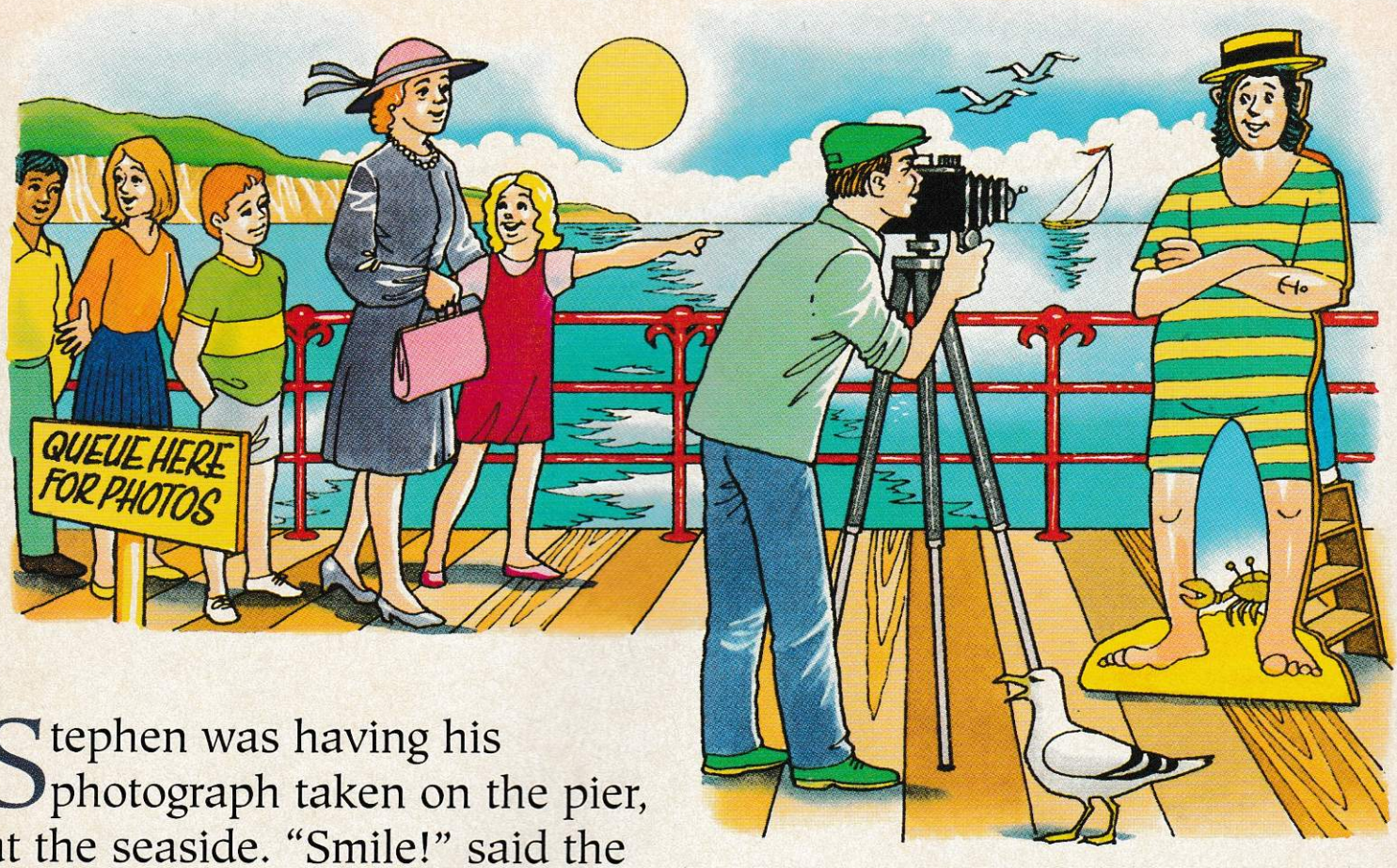
He is always friendly and gets on with everybody!

Win a model Trevor!

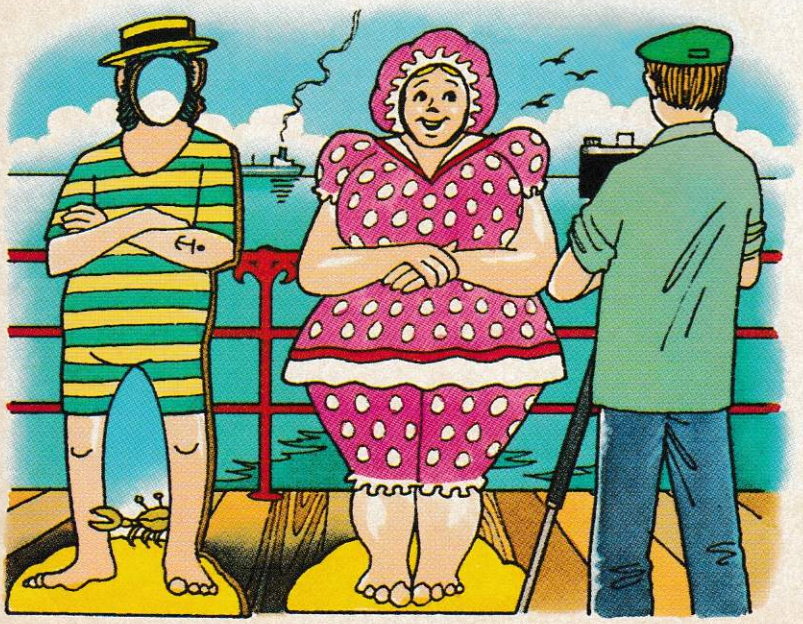
Five lucky winners will win a splendid model Trevor from the ERTL engine range! Just send a post card, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/Trevor model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ. Closing date: October 11th 1996. The first five names out of our postbag after the closing date will win their very own Trevor!



SNAP HAPPY

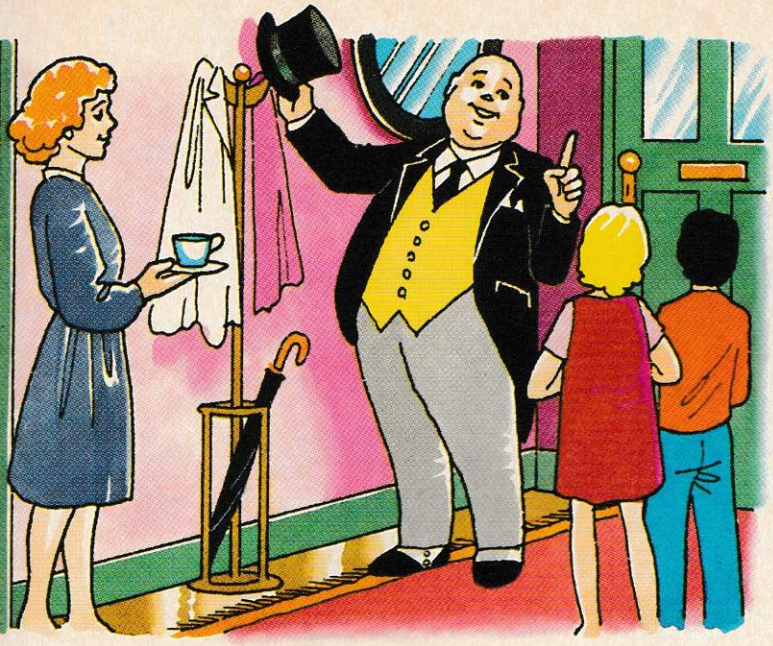


Stephen was having his photograph taken on the pier, at the seaside. "Smile!" said the photographer. "I can't stop laughing," teased Bridget who was watching with their grandmother, Lady Hatt. "I've never seen Stephen look so funny!" "That's the idea," said Stephen as the camera clicked. He was standing behind the painted shape of a man wearing an old-fashioned, striped bathing costume. There was a hole in the model for Stephen's face. "I'm next!" cried Bridget, excitedly.



Nearby, was a model of a lady in an olden-day swimsuit. Now Stephen laughed as Bridget's face appeared in the frilly bathing cap.

Afterwards, the photographer took Lady Hatt's address so that he could post both the pictures to her when the film was ready.

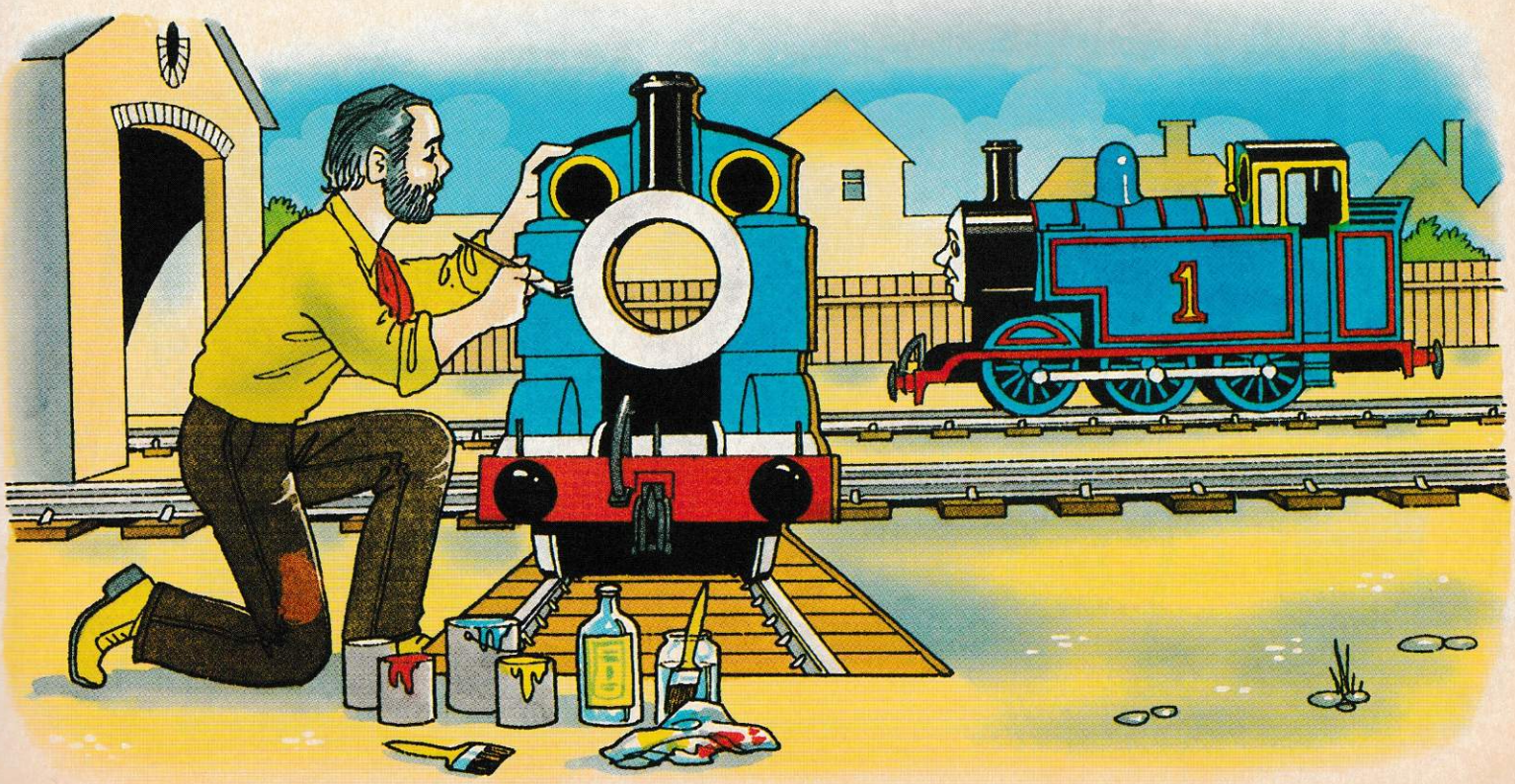


There were lots of attractions on the pier. But the funny-figure photos were the most popular with all the children. Stephen and Bridget had queued very patiently for their turn to be snapped.

That evening, when the Fat Controller arrived home from work, his grandchildren told him about their trip to the pier. He also had some exciting news. "I'm going to hold a Railway Fun Day at the Main Station," he told them all. "It's for all our loyal passengers to enjoy."

The others thought it was a kind idea and offered to help get everything ready. Visitors would be shown around the engine shed and the Fat Controller's office. There would be refreshments in the waiting room and souvenirs to take home. "I'll hire a photographer to snap children with the engines," said the Fat Controller.

Next morning, the postman delivered the funny pictures of Stephen and Bridget. When the Fat Controller saw them, he laughed loudly. Then he had



another idea. The Fat Controller hurried off to work. He arranged for a cardboard model of Thomas to be painted. But when the model was finished, Thomas was puzzled. "There's a hole where my face should be," he said. "Why?" "You'll soon see," smiled the Fat Controller.

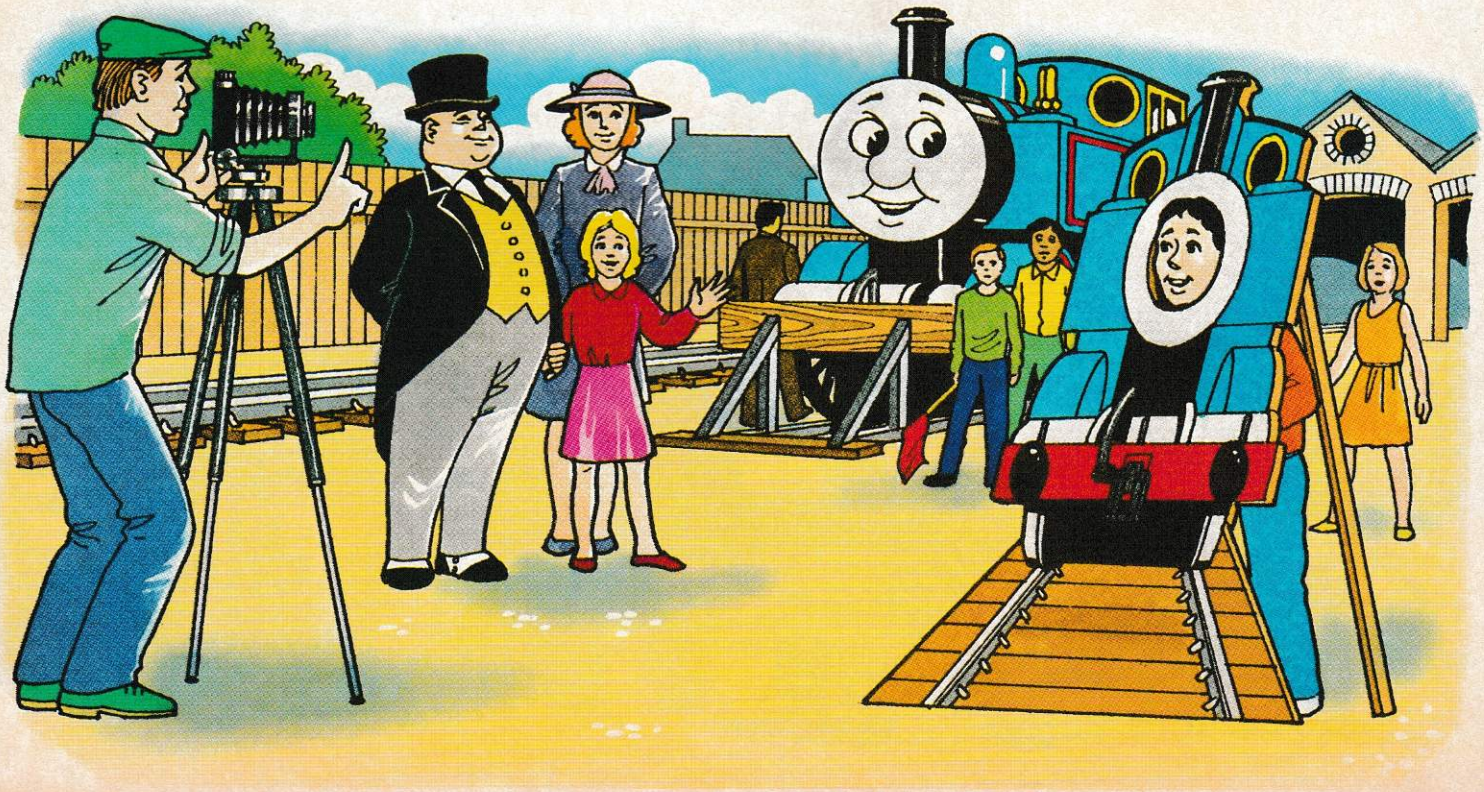
On the big day, the Main Station was full of visitors. Excited children were given whistles and flags to keep. Lady Hatt had arranged for the photographer from the pier to take pictures of everyone.

Stephen and Bridget were delighted with the model of Thomas. They joined all the other children as they each peered through the hole in the model. The photographer took a photograph of each of them.

Thomas laughed. At last, the little tank engine understood. He felt very important indeed!

"We'll all look like Thomas now," said the children. "But there's only one Thomas really," smiled Bridget.

THE END

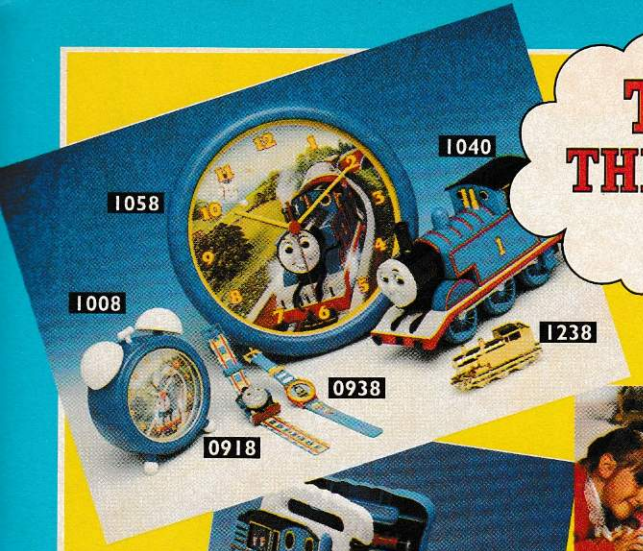


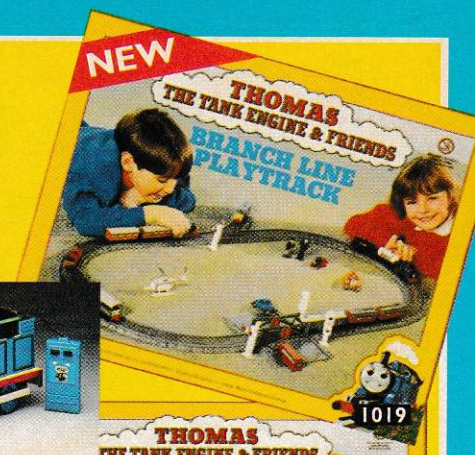
Dot to dot!

It's Autumn time, as you can see. What is falling from the tree?

When you have finished colour this page!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™





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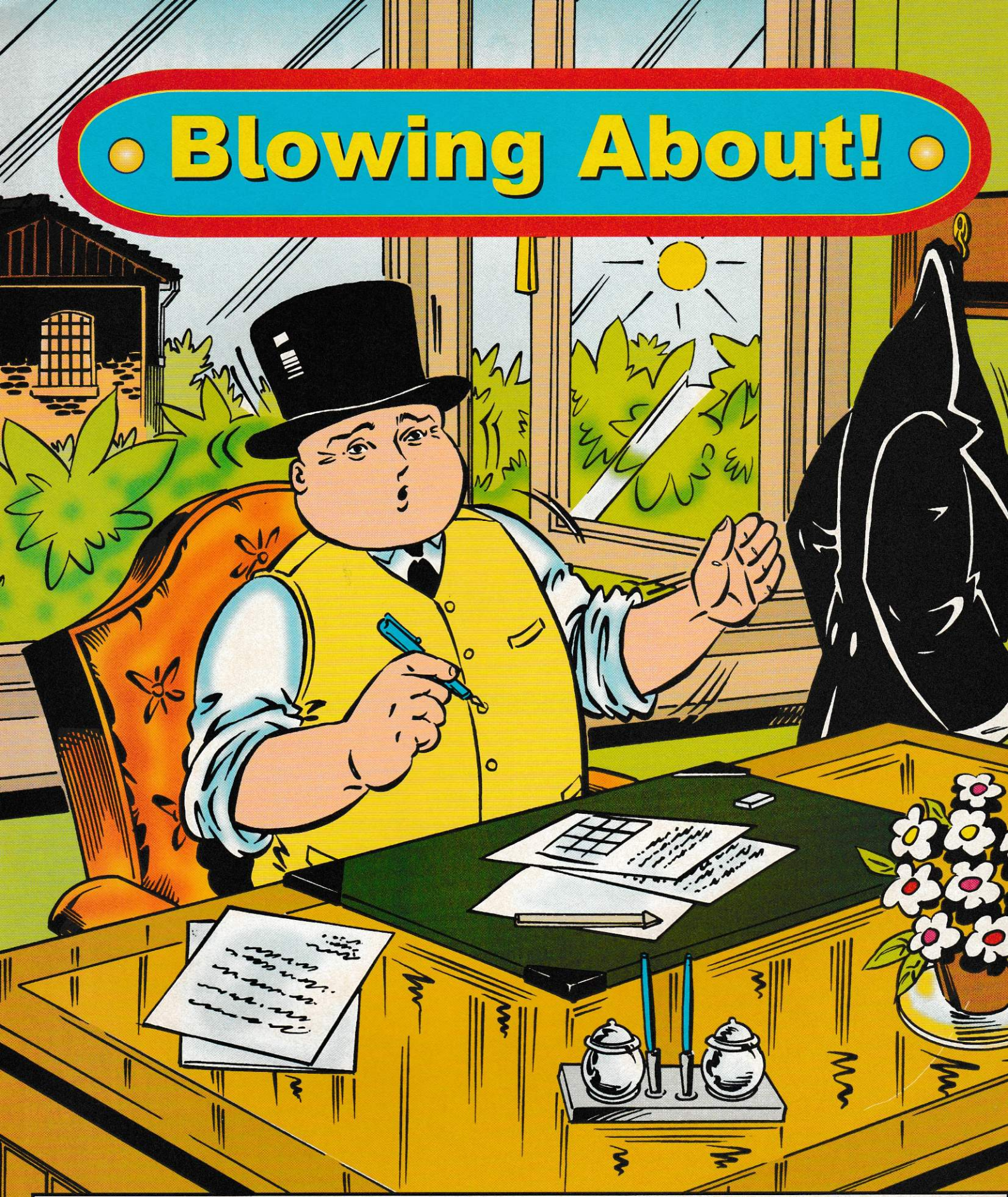
0074P

Noughts and crosses with James and Edward!

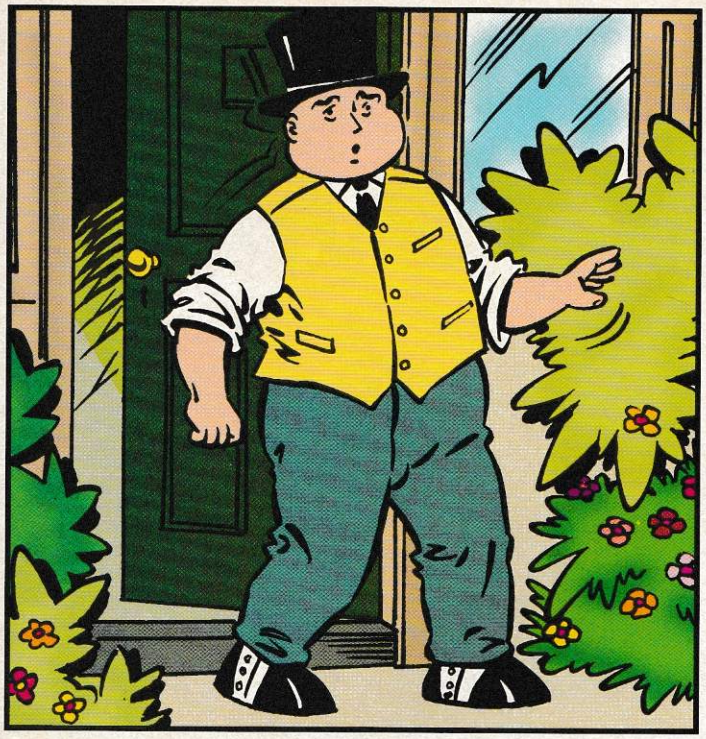
Cut out the tokens below and choose which engine you would like to be. Take it in turns with a friend to place them on the grid and try to make a line of three!

Blowing About!

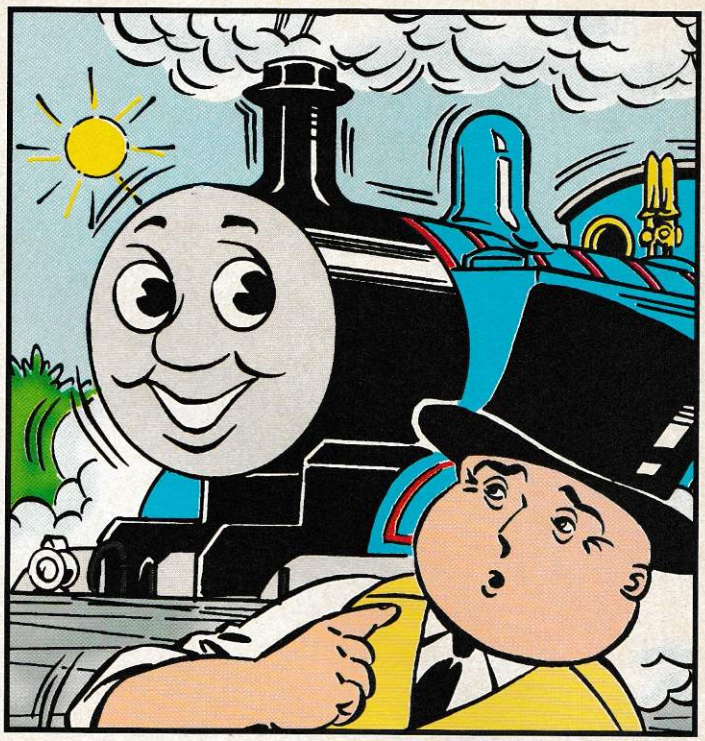


1. The Fat Controller had lots to do. He was even busier than usual preparing a new timetable for his engines. "I'll have to work in my office all week," he thought.

2. To make matters worse, the weather had turned very hot indeed. "My office feels like a greenhouse," he gasped. He took off his jacket to try and cool down.



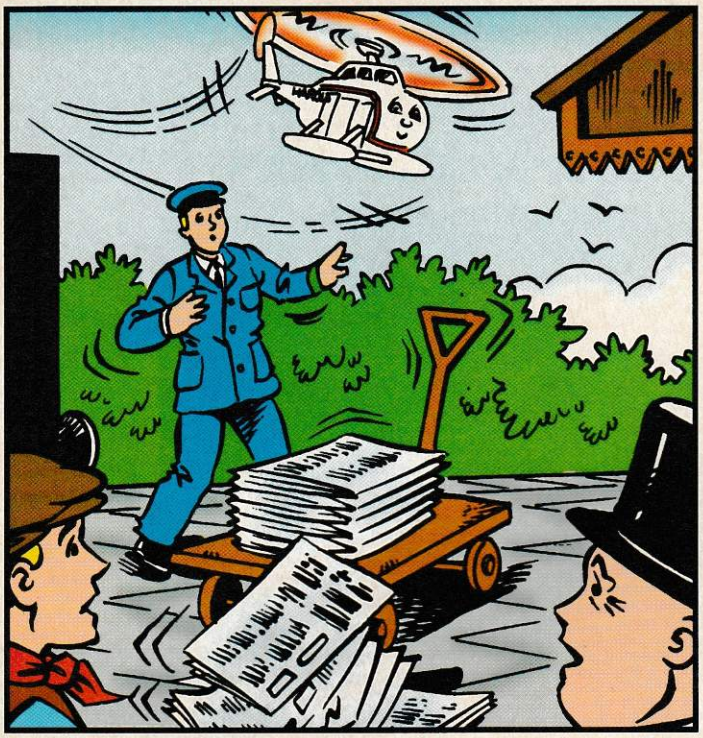
3. The Fat Controller left his office door and window open, but the air was still and warm. "I'll go and get a cold drink from the station café," he thought, stepping outside.



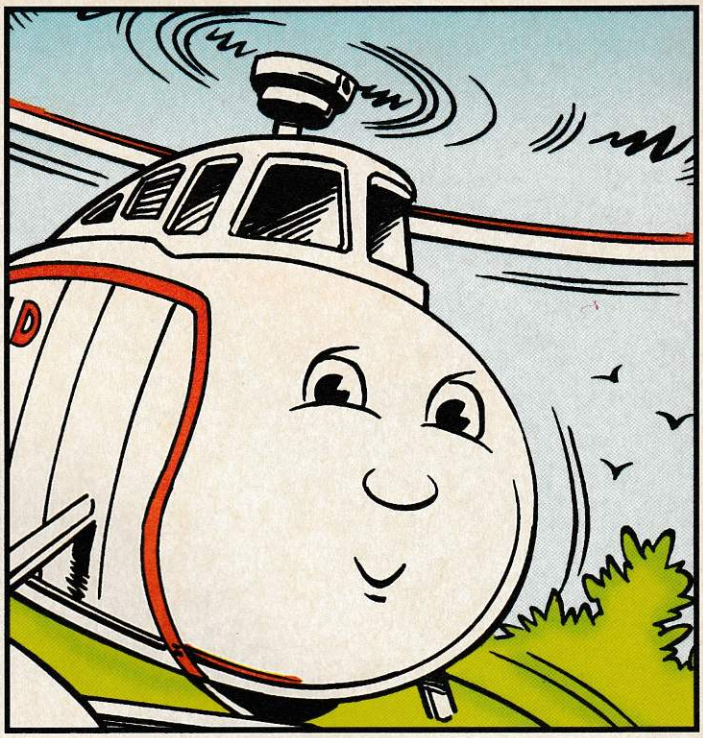
4. Thomas had just pulled into the Main Station with a van full of newspapers to be unloaded. "Phew! Isn't it hot, Thomas?" puffed the Fat Controller, with red cheeks.

5. "Yes, sir," replied Thomas. "If you don't mind me saying, you look as if your boiler has overheated!" "I wish I could keep my office nice and cool," said the Fat Controller.

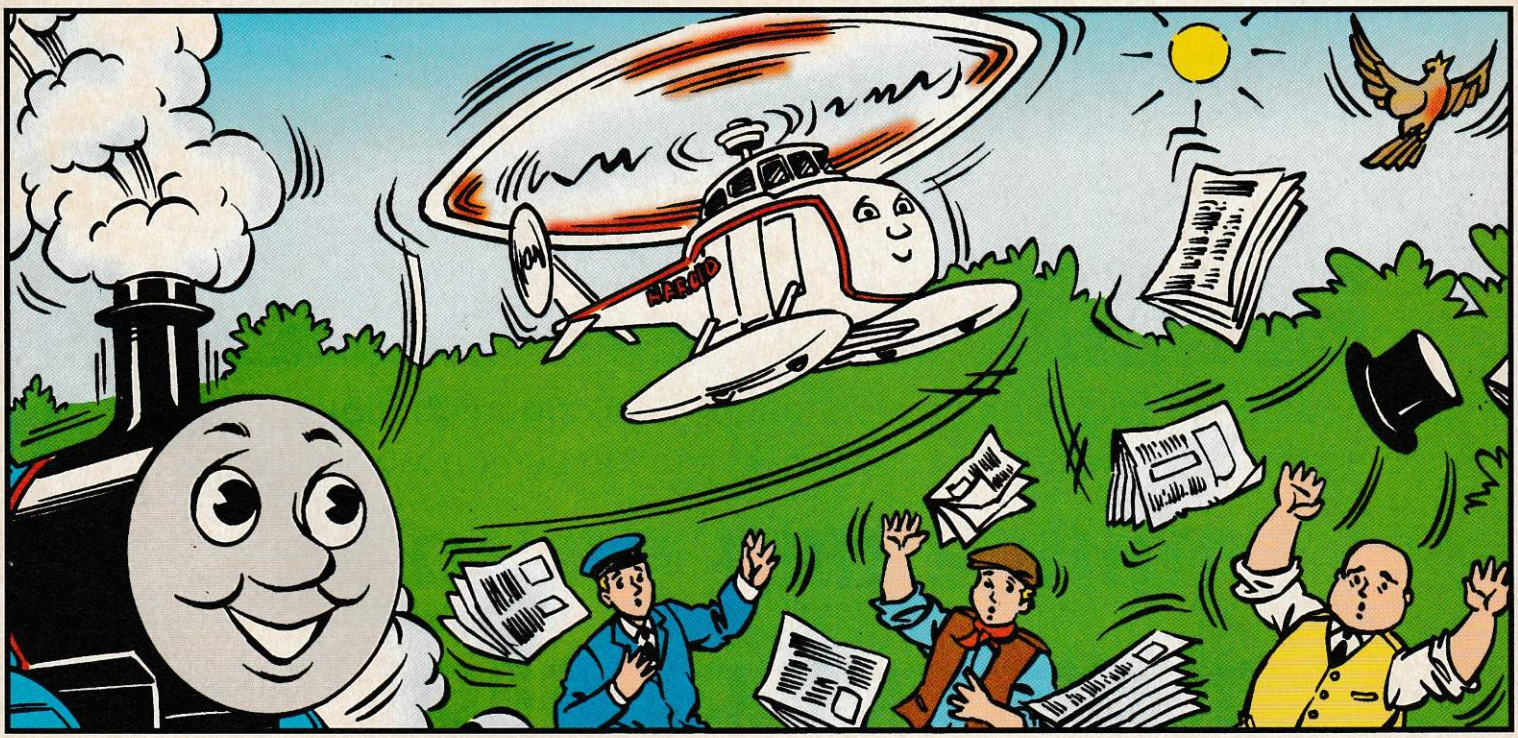
6. Thomas' guard began to unload the newspapers. He lifted them onto a trolley so he could wheel them to the car park. A man was going to collect them in his lorry.



7. Suddenly, one of the bundles fell off the trolley and newspapers dropped out. Just then, Harold the Helicopter flew past. He swooped down to say hello to Thomas.

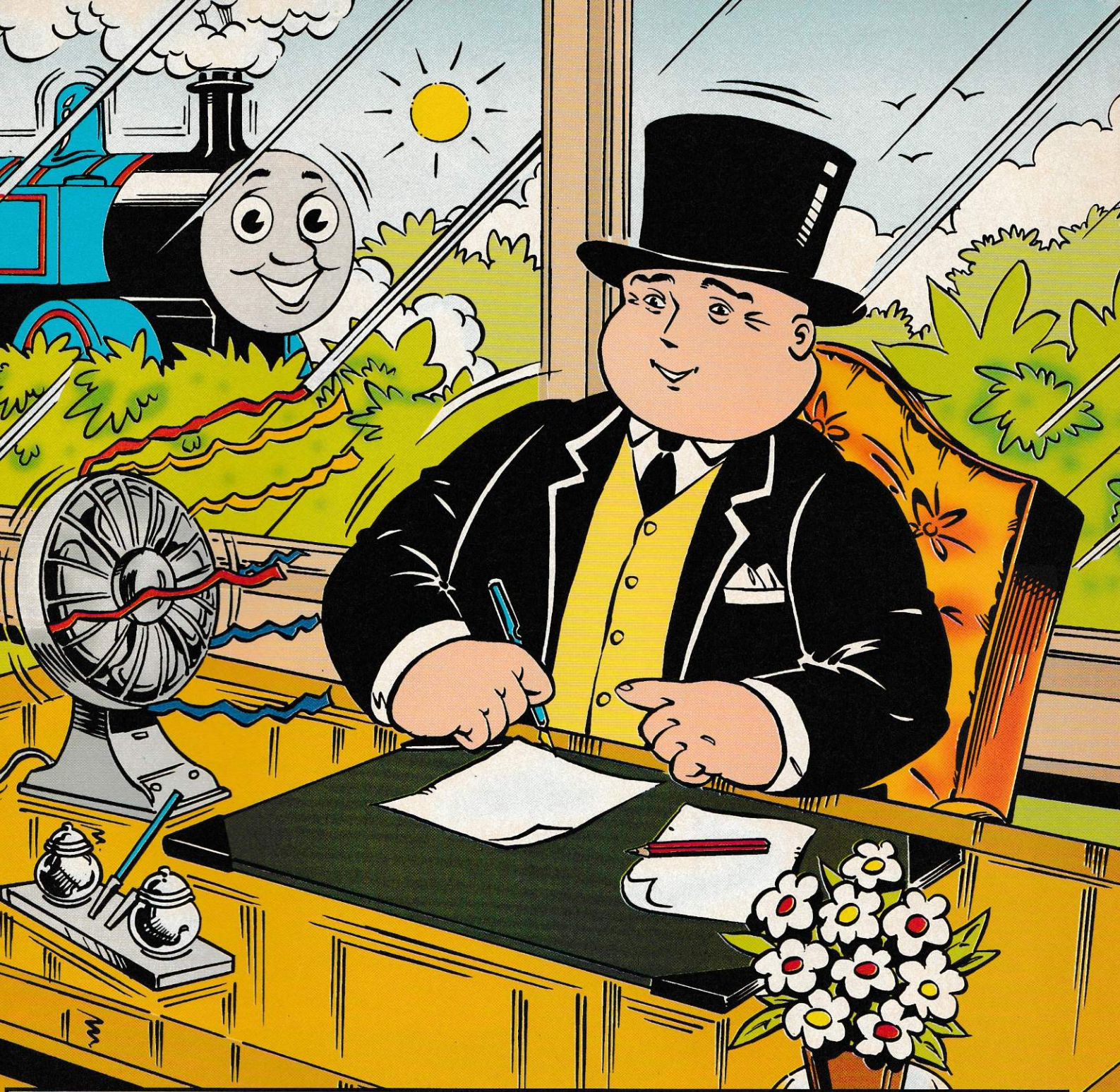


8. Harold saw all the newspapers on the platform. "Oh, What a mess!" he teased Thomas. "Sending goods by air is much tidier than letting a clumsy steam engine carry them!"



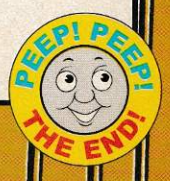
9. But Harold had forgotten about his big, whirly blades. "Look out!" shouted Thomas. Too late! Round and round spun the blades. "It feels like a windy day!" cried Thomas.

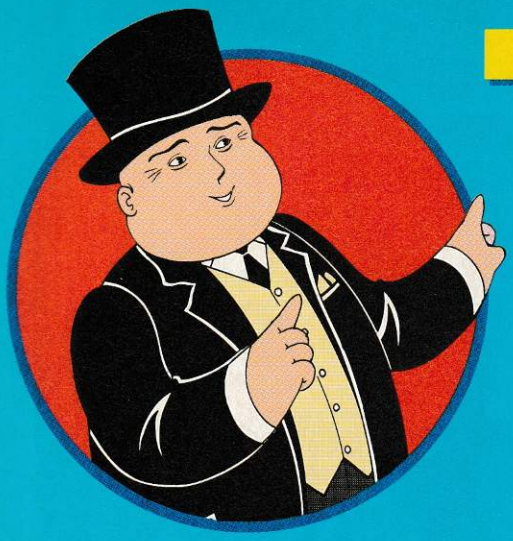
10. All the newspapers flew into the air. The Fat Controller's top hat went whizzing off his head."Now who's made a mess?" called Thomas. "Oops! Sorry!" said Harold.



11. "There's no need to be," replied the Fat Controller. "You've just given me a splendid idea!" Harold and Thomas were really puzzled. "How, sir?" asked the little tank engine. "You'll see," smiled the Fat Controller, picking up his hat. As Harold flew away, the wind dropped. All the newspaper pages floated back down and were quickly gathered up.

12. Later, Thomas fetched a large package for the Fat Controller who opened it in his office. When Thomas rolled past the window, he saw the Fat Controller working happily. "It's much cooler in here, thanks to this fan you collected, Thomas!" he said. "The little whirly blades make a lovely draught!" "Lucky they're not as big as Harold's!" Thomas smiled.





The m

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ.

Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
Why is Stuart now called Peter Sam?

From Joseph Smith, aged 7.

Following an overhaul, Stuart was called Peter Sam in honour of the Thin Controller, who was in charge of the railway at the time. Perhaps they'll name an engine after me one day!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a Thomas remote control model!

Cheerful little Harold drawn by **Robert Davies, aged 9.**

Prize Poem!

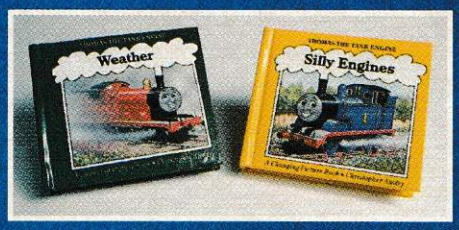
Luke Peniket, aged 2, sent us this cheerful poem.

Thomas is my best friend,
The fun with him never ends.
He makes me happy when I'm sad,
He's the most fun I've ever had.
Most of all, that little train,
Makes me happy, again and again!

Happy Birthday

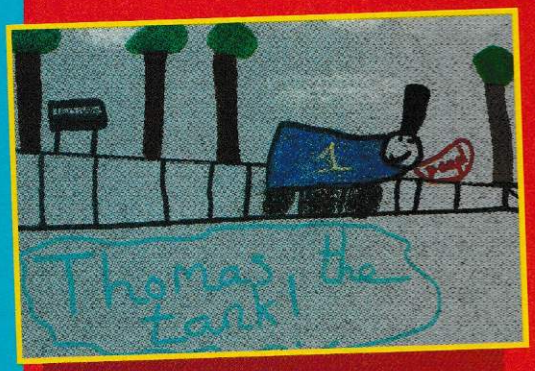
TO... Matthew Garrett, age 4 Paul Crawford, age 2, George Carter, age 5, Kelly Jones, age 3, Katy Bell, age 6, William Hughes, age 4

ail train!



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book.**

A splendid looking Donald by Calam Henwood, aged 6.



Cheeky Thomas by Michael and Conor Grant.

Percy's Jokes

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy!

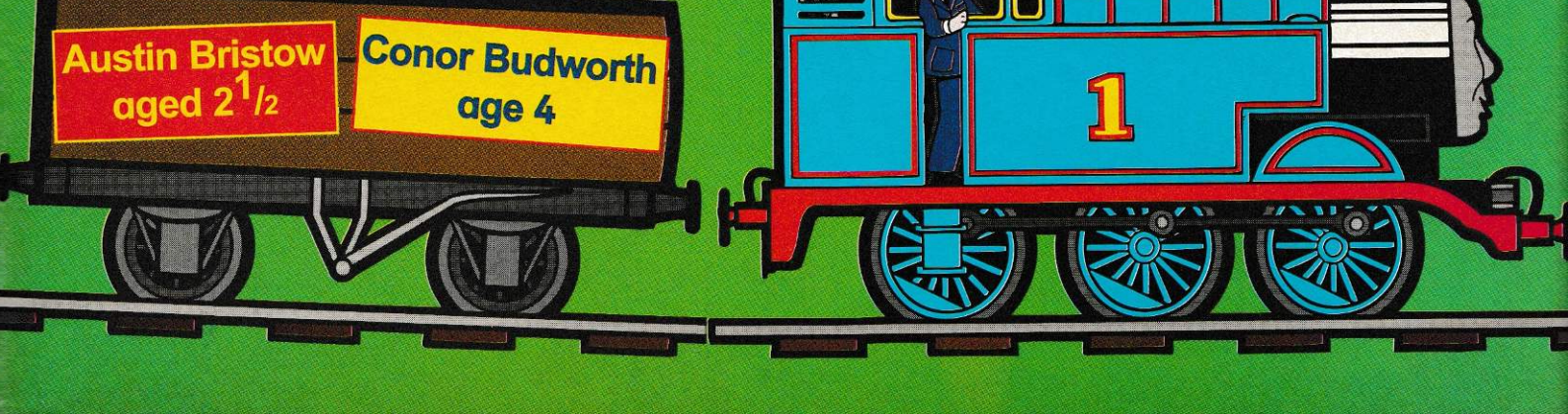
What do policemen have in their sandwiches?
Traffic jam!
John Brown, aged 6.

What sits on the seabed and shakes?
A nervous wreck!
Lee Simmons, aged 4.

What game do horses play?
Stable tennis!
Katie Steele, age 7.

Austin Bristow aged 2 1/2

Conor Budworth age 4



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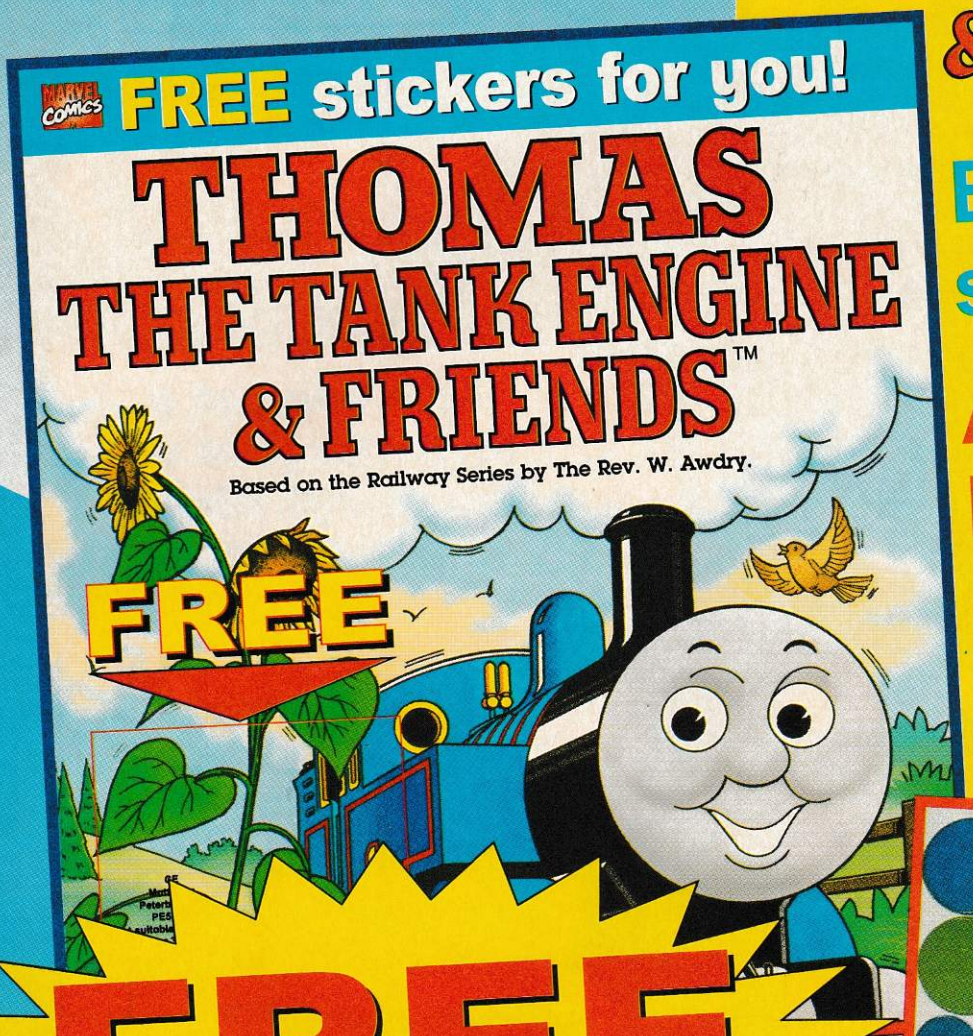

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